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Materia Medica.

A CASE OF OXALIC ACID POISONING.

By. WM. BOERICKE, M. D., San Francisco.

PROF. INSTITUTES OF MEDICINE HAHNEMANN HOSPITAL COLLEGE.

On Thursday afternoon, June 30th, 1892, I was called to see a young gentleman, whom I had met before and knew to be a man of excellent habits and health. I learned that shortly after lunch he was suddenly attacked with a most severe pain in the eyes with a feeling as if the balls were expanded, followed by pain in the temples, then in the back of the head and base of the skull. The pains were intense and of a compressive character. The patient felt very weak, circulation was very poor, feeling of numbness in the hands, afterwards in the legs and back extending to the head. Hands and face colorless. The smell of strong ammonia that had been placed to his nose was not perceived. This attack lasted about five minutes in its greatest intensity and after about fifteen minutes from the first pain he was able to leave the room with slight assistance, feeling much better after breathing the open air and walking home, about four blocks. After being home perhaps an hour the pains recommenced, gradually to increase in severity in the temples and base of the head until they were most agonizing. Nausea now appeared, vomiting of dark thick matter. The pains in the back and extremities grew in intensity and there now developed the most exquisite sensitiveness to light. The room had to be absolutely dark. The least ray would cause great pain and diabolical suffering. Similar sensitiveness to all noise and hyperaesthsia of the skin were present. There were specially sensitive spots on the spine with numbness of the extremities. There were spasms of pain down the extremities, similar spasms along the throat muscles *and along the spermatic cord* very marked, very bad odor from mouth, retention of urine and constipation, no fever. The pulse was very weak (sixty), there was no sweat and delirium. In his delirium he constantly talked of the pain of having been hit, struck, etc.

What was I dealing with? Judging from the severity of the attack, the intensity of the pain, poisoning of some kind of course, strychnine or what not suggested itself and I thought that he had eaten something at lunch time that would account for these symptoms; but investigation proved that that was not the case, for he had lunched with a friend who was perfectly well. He received *Nux vomica* and *Belladonna*, mustard bath, etc., in the course of twenty-four hours but no relief followed the administration. The pains rather increased in severity and the condition grew so alarming that Dr. Dewey was taken in consultation.

Up to July 10—ten days—the condition continued, more or less modified, of course, although with general decrease of pains. The retinal hyperæsthesia was the most intense and longest persistent symptom. Once during this attack, July 7th, the pulse grew so weak and the extremities so cold that it seemed that the patient was dying, but with stimulants and remedies he rallied and gradually grew better.

In consultation next morning, I remarked that *Oxalic acid* presented itself most prominently as the indicated remedy and proposed to administer it, whereupon it occurred to us that *Oxalic acid* was contained in rhubarb, and our patient had partaken largely of rhubarb pie. Could it be possible, on account of some existing idiosyncracy, that he was suffering from a case of *Oxalic acid* poisoning due to so remote a factor? It seemed hardly probable, but the suggestion served us to discover the true source, for we had no sooner suggested *Oxalic acid* when the patient, before whom we conversed, informed us that he had been making experiments with chemicals and had used *Oxalic acid* in a saturated solution two days before this attack set in. His hands had been continuously in the solution for a long time. The case seemed clear at once, and there was no question any longer that we were dealing with a case of *Oxalic acid* poisoning due to the absorption of the poison. The case was treated symptomatically and in the course of a few days the patient grew much better, although the sensitiveness of the eyes to light, the pain in spots and down the legs persisted for quite a time.

After some ten days, quite suddenly, another attack of the pains set in and all the symptoms that characterized the first appeared. The pain was so intense that nothing but large doses of *Morphine* relieved for a time and when it grew less violent the case was again treated symptomatically as before. The chief symptoms of these attacks were the following:

Hyperæsthesia of sight; pain in small of back, head, eyes, cheek bones, numbness of extremities; terrible headache, spasms of pain intense; very bad odor from mouth; constipation. The patient again grew comparatively well when, twenty-one days after, another attack came on, with pain even intenser but not lasting so long; the same hyperæsthesia, nausea, vomiting, but no gastric pain; attack seemed again to have occurred after eating. The pain through the head and neck radiating to eyes and down the back was somewhat relieved by semi-erect posture. The pain in the muscles and cords was increased by stretching, which brought on, to a frightful degree, the pain in the back. Special pain in spots on back of neck over

cervical vertebræ, pressure on which caused radiation of pain throughout eyes, head, etc., worse on awaking; if he continues to lie in bed, is compelled to get up. Again the patient convalesced, and this time seemingly more permanently, so that he was able to be out, gaining appetite and strength. He was very anxious to return East, being discouraged in his business, and as he had no special home comforts here I gave my consent, to his great satisfaction. He went off apparently well and happy, and got along all right as far as Denver, where, for the fourth time, again after eating and again as suddenly, another attack came on from which he never rallied, nor even regained his consciousness, but died there and then. The physician that was called in had no way of knowing the nature of the trouble, and probably nothing was done directly to influence the fatal termination.

This is, I believe, the only case on record of fatal poisoning caused by absorption of a concentrated solution. Notice the remarkable intermissions, a fact noticed also in the provings. Indeed, the corroboration this record gives to the provings made by Neidhard and Hering is quite remarkable. I recognized the correspondence of the symptoms of the patient with those found in the provings, and was helped thereby to a diagnosis of the case, and the similarity was found to be complete by subsequent more careful comparison of both. We need only remember the intense spinal and head pains, the exquisite hyperæsthesias, the periodical remissions, the spasmodic symptoms of the throat and chest, the pain in circumscribed spots and along spermatic cord, all characteristics brought out by the provings and singularly illustrated in this case.

MATERIA MEDICA MELANGE

By W. A. DEWEY, M. D., 170 W. 54th St., New York,
ex-prof. materia medica, hahnemann hospital college, san francisco.

Gelsemium has an element of tiredness which does not belong to *Aconite*, its face is deeper red and its pains are duller. There is a general unsteadiness, rather than the sudden violent vertigo found under *Aconite*.

Local applications are sometimes indicated Homeopathically in local affections, but never in the local manifestations of constitutional diseases, hence never in diphtheria or in syphilis.

Thyroid gland is prepared by dessicating the gland of the sheep, and it is put up in dry powder form or in compressed tablets. It is rather a food than a medicine. In *Myxœdema*, where it has achieved its greatest success, it is usually given in doses of 3 grains.

Natrum nitricum is highly recommended by Dr. Möser for hæmoptysis. No special indications are given. He places *Ferrum phos.* and *Phosphorus* in second range.

An excellent Homeopathic journal published in Stuttgart, following the example of enterprising new world contemporaries, has an excellent picture of Dr. J. Compton Burnett, our English confrere.

Asafœtida has a spasmodic tightness across the chest as though the lungs could not be expanded, and clinically it has been found to be an excellent remedy in asthma brought on by bodily exertion, especially also from dietetic errors.

Kreasote should not be forgotten in teething children where the child has almost the *Chamomilla* disposition, and where there are excoriations about the anus or vulva.

Chamomilla is an excellent remedy for the secondary effects of *Morphine*, such as the terrible retching, straining and vomiting followed by prostration, sweat and exhaustion. *Chamomilla* may also be called the "Morphine of Homeopathy," in those who are over-sensitive to pain.

Magnesia mur. has feeble urination. There seems to be always some urine left behind in the bladder. Its evacuation is facilitated by pressing on the abdominal muscles.

Practice of Medicine.

MEDICAL CENTURY CLINIC.

SELECTED SHARP SHOTS.

As an antidote to *Morphia* poisoning, one and one-half grains of *Permanganate of Potash* may be given to each grain of *Morphia*.

Chills with enlarged liver in a great majority of cases mean suppuration, and either abscess or pylephlebitis.

Colics are the painful contractions of mucous tubes which have a muscular layer.

The indications for *Euonymin* in biliousness are: heavy, wearing, occipital headache; bowels neither loose nor constipated, generally regular but deficient in bile; yellow tongue, slow pulse, bitter eructation.

Cheledonium causes the liver to secrete thinner and more profuse yellow bile than any other drug.

In follicular tonsillitis, with considerable enlargement of glands and coalescence of spots, *Phytolacca* is said to rival *Iodide* of *Mercury*. It is in this class of cases that *Phytolacca* has made its reputation as a remedy in diphtheria.

Hydrastis relieves constipation by increasing the mucous in the colon, *Nux Vomica* by producing regular peristaltic action. They are not cathartics.

Aethusa is a valuable remedy in vomiting and convulsions of teething children.

For croup occurring in hot weather, *Bromium*. Coming on next day after taking cold, *Hepar*.

If the tongue be yellow, breath offensive, frontal headache, pale stool, bitter eructations, slow pulse (bilious dyspepsia) *Euonymin* may be indicated.

Dr. G. W. Wood, Wilmington, O., is reported by *The Argus* to have cured a case of epilepsy, resulting from masturbation, with *Mono-Bromide of Camphor*.

Acute pharyngitis is apt to be followed by rheumatic affection if it subsides suddenly.

For relaxed uvula the local application of *Colinsonia* is recommended.

In simple case of breech presentation the obstetrician should avoid hastening the descent of the trunk.

Senecio Aurens (life root) is a valuable remedy in amenorrhœa.

Do not leave a woman after labor when the pulse is one hundred or over.

In severe paroxysms of coughing, from whatever cause, a teaspoonful of glycerine in hot milk or cream is a useful palliative. *Iodide of Potash* is said to stimulate the arterial and glandular system better than *Mercury* in nasal affections.

Sharp says the physician should attack the disease, not the patient.

Grindelia Robusta is one of the best remedies for itching of the skin caused by *Rhus* and other poisonous plants.

The *Formic acid* in *Apis* is quite likely the most active element of that remedy.

In membranous croup *Ammonium causticum* is often able to save life.

Iris has acid vomiting with headache over the eyes. It is the great remedy for Sunday headache.

Acetic acid 1x has been given and applied locally for cancer. Some cases of cancer of the stomach have been claimed as cured by its administration. No doubt it tends to dissolve cancer cells.

Headache beginning in the morning, getting worse towards noon, better at sundown, "sun headache," calls for *Spigelia.*

Kretol in Ringworm.—A most efficient remedy for ringworm exists in the new coal tar preparation *Kretol.* I have recently seen it used in several cases of ringworm and have never known it to fail in destroying the disease when properly and thoroughly applied.

The treatment of ringworm is sometimes very tedious and generally associated with an unhealthy condition of the skin in which such tonics as *Iron* and *Arsenic* are indicated, but as a local application I have never seen any preparation used which gave such satisfactory results and accomplished so much in a short time as *Kretol.* I have seen some very stubborn cases of ringworm of the scalp yield very readily to treatment by this agent. The parts having been first thoroughly cleansed the pure drug was applied and repeated every three hours, *being thoroughly well rubbed in.* In every case where this was done a most rapid disappearance of the ringworm was the result. In some of the cases which I saw the disease had resisted all the ordinary methods of treatment; *Tincture of Iodine, Bichloride of Mercury, Hyposulphite of Soda* and other remedies had been used with very little appreciable benefit. *Krotel* is an agent that I have known tried in many other conditions where an antiseptic, astringent, detergent or analgesic is needed and it always acted in a manner to justify the expectations of those who employed it. It is well worthy of the intelligent investigation of the skin specialist.—ANONYMOUS.

Surgery.

DEPRESSED FRACTURES OF THE CRANIAL VAULT.

BY HOWARD R. CHISLETT, M. D., CHICAGO.

ADJUNCT PROF. SURGERY HAHNEMANN MEDICAL COLLEGE.

CASE 1.—Mr. L——, aged twenty-five years, German, received a blow upon the head two years ago but aside from the pain which lasted a few days he experienced no trouble. A few weeks before entrance, while cleaning a street lamp, he fell, striking upon the head; was stunned by the fall and upon regaining consciousness he discovered that the right arm and leg were partly paralyzed and that he could not speak distinctly. Examination revealed a distinct depression over the left fissure of Rolando. There was no scalp wound; no evidence of an old one. The removal of the depressed portions, two and one-half by one and one-half inches, disclosed membranes free from structural change. The recovery was uneventful, the improvement being quite noticeable after the second day. Discharged in three weeks with perfect use of arm and leg and no hesitancy in speech.

CASE 2.—Master W——, aged twelve years, American, was run over by a buggy the day before admission. Patient was completely unconscious, pupils dilated and fixed, screaming, moaning and tossing about. There was no scalp wound but examination revealed the line of fracture extending from the posterior parietal region on the right side, forward and across the frontal bone one and one-half inches above the eyebrows, then backward, terminating at the left parietal eminence. There was a distinct depression in the right parietal bone at its posterior and inferior angle. The removal of the depressed piece (one and one-half by one inch) disclosed a bulging dura with loss of pulsation. The dura was opened and a large quantity of cerebral fluid escaped, disclosing extensive laceration of brain tissue as far as we could see. Wounds drained and patient sent to bed. Death on the third day, patient never regaining consciousness.

CASE 3.—Mr. S——, aged thirty-five, American. This patient was struck in the forehead and sustained a compound comminuted and depressed fracture of the vault. The surgeon in attendance had removed the depressed fragments, had packed the wound to arrest the bleeding but had not recognized that the membranes had been lacerated. I saw the patient one week later and noted the following facts: A circular opening, one inch in diameter, in the skull just to the right of the median line in the upper part of the frontal bone. Protruding from this opening was a mass of softening brain tissue from which the blood was constantly oozing. Moving this mass to the right disclosed a rent in the superior longitudinal sinus and caused a free hemorrhage. There was also bleeding from the ears, probably indicating a fracture of base. The patient was conscious but had a high temperature and was at times delirious; pupils sluggish. Enlargement of opening, excision of the infected tissues protruding, suture of longitudinal sinus, sterilization with *Boracic acid* solution and packing with iodoformized gauze completed the operation. The patient sank gradually, dying on the ninth day from suppurative meningitis.

CASE 4.—Mr. W. J. ——, fell from the second story of a building and was brought directly to the hospital; was fully conscious, pulse good, strong and regular, respiration normal. The conditions noted were hemorrhage from ears, lacerated wounds of forehead and eyelids and a depressed fracture of frontal bone one inch above the orbital ridge. Button of depressed bone one by one and one-half inches removed, wounds cleansed, lacerated tissues removed and edges approximated. Recovery. Discharged cured in three weeks.

CASE 5.—Mr. F.——, aged twenty-one years, American. Was admitted in a dazed, stupid condition, having received a blow on the head with a coupling-pin. He could not answer readily to questions, though he seemed to understand and wanted to write the answers. The pain was not great and he felt like walking about. Right side of face completely paralyzed. Pupils irregular, the left one being widely dilated. Scalp wound over right frontal bone and also over left parietal bone. Enlarging the latter wound disclosed a depression in the posterior portion of the parietal bone. This was removed, the wounds cleansed and sutured. The paralysis was almost gone

in one week. Patient discharged cured on twenty-first day.

Case 6.—Mr. G.——, aged thirty-three, Bohemian. In jumping from a train, fell upon his head sustaining a scalp wound in upper part of frontal bone of left side. There were also fractures of neck of right humerous and of first metacarple bone of right hand. There were no symptoms of pressure, patient was very anemic, the pulse rapid, the pupils regular and sensitive. Enlarged scalp wound and removed depression three-fourths of an inch in diameter, four inches above outer angle of left eye. Uneventful recovery.

Case 7.—Mr. S. D.——, aged twenty-seven years, Pole. Was struck in the head with an ax sustaining wound three inches above left ear and one inch to the left of occipital protuberance. There were a few symptoms such as drowsiness, or slightly dazed condition that might suggest but would not diagnose compression. Pulse, pupils and respiration about normal. Exploration revealed depressions at both places, the one in the parietal region necessitating removal of a fragment the size of a dime. The occipital injury did not include the inner table though it was slightly larger in outline. Uninterrupted recovery.

Case 8.—Mr. H——, aged forty-seven, American. Entered the hospital without a single symptom of general character. The local condition was an infected wound directly on top of the head, the entire tissues of the scalp for an area one inch in diameter having sloughed as the result of traumatism. The exposed bone, devoid of periosteum, was rough and depressed. The chisel revealed that the depression was of external table only. Recovery; the wound healing slowly by granulation.

Case 9.—Mr. C——, aged forty-four, Irish. Was attacked by foot-pads and struck with a coupling-pin, causing fracture of three fingers of left hand and contused lacerated wound of left side of head. Was conscious when admitted and complained only of pain. Chiseled out a depression the size of a nickle from the upper and posterior portion of left parietal bone. Recovery; discharged cured.

Case 10.—Mr. J——, aged fifty-one, German. A large piece of glass falling from the fourth story of a building struck him on the head. The patient walked into the hospital without a single symptom. Examination determined a piece of glass three-eighths by three-fourths of an inch, sticking firmly and perpendicularly into the skull just to the left of the central part of the sagital suture. Removal of glass disclosed a comminuted and depressed fracture. Bone removed, membranes uninjured. Recovery.

Case 11.—Mr. R——, aged twenty-eight, English. Fell from elevated railroad, striking on head sustaining a scalp wound three inches long over the left parietal eminence. Bleeding freely from nose and vomiting at intervals large quantities of fresh looking blood. Presented all the symptoms of "concussion" with some compression; no fracture discernible through wound. Patient sent to bed. Eight hours later symptoms of compression became more marked, pulse 90, respiration 53, dull, stupid, left pupil dilated, right leg paralyzed. Free incision revealed a depressed fracture posterior to and above left parietal eminence. Removal of a button of bone one by one and one-half inches showed extensive laceration of membranes and brain tissue, and both extra- and intra-dural clots extending over greater part of left side. Hemorrhage arrested, clots washed out, membranes sutured, gauze drains inserted and patient sent to bed. He never rallied and died seven hours afterward.

Case 12.—Mr. K——, aged twenty-four, American. Was struck on the head with a hatchet one hour before admission. He was very nervous and cried some, but had no pain. Pupils regular and reacted promptly. A ragged, crescentic wound over right motor area but no evidence of compression. Enlarging the wound we discovered a depressed fragment which, being practically detached from the surrounding bone, appeared externally to be about one-half by three-fourths of an inch. Upon enlarging the opening and removing the fragment, the depression of the inner table measured one by one and one-half inches. Membranes uninjured, no clots. Patient discharged cured on twenty-third day, having passed through the entire time without a symptom.

Case 13.—Mr. D——, aged twenty-three, American. Fell from an elevation striking upon the upper back part of head, practically crushing the crown of the head. Completely comatose, stertorous breathing, pupils widely dilated and insensitive. The hemorrhage was profuse, the patient very anemic. Exploration revealed very extensive laceration, the patient dying during efforts to arrest the profuse hemorrhage from the large rents in the superior longitudinal sinus.

Case 14.—Mr. B.——, aged twenty-nine years, American. Patient admitted in unconscious condition; no history ascertained. Respiration rapid and catchy, pulse very fast and feeble, temperature 103° F. Examination showed a circular wound about the size of a quarter of a dollar in the median line, one inch in front of the coronal suture. This being enlarged disclosed a depressed fracture of the same shape but somewhat smaller. The removal of this enabled us to see the torn dura and lacerated longitudinal sinus. Rents in membrane and sinus sutured, the oozing arrested by iodoform compresses. The patient never regained consciousness; the wound became infected and the patient died on the fifth day of suppurative meningitis.

Case 15. — Mr. E. ——, aged forty-five, Pole. Entered the hospital without history, exhibiting an extensive scalp wound which began in the middle of the forehead, passed back in median line to crown and then to left and behind the left ear. Exploration revealed no fracture. Suture of scalp and periosteal wounds. The interesting feature about this case was that, in his struggles during the administration of the anesthetic, he used both arms equally well. Shortly after regaining consciousness, he could not use the right hand. This paralysis became practically complete but gradually passed away, and on the seventeenth day he could use t e whole hand. There was a slight paresis of the right leg, too, but owing to a fracture of this tibia we could not notice changes as carefully. There were few symptoms except constant headache, pupils and pulse natural, temperature one day reaching 100.2 F. There were no facial symptoms whatever.

I know, that as a rule, the recital of more than one or two cases is rather tiresome, but I have dared try your patience by reading so many in order that I might present for your consideration the following facts and conclusions: Of the fourteen cases where fracture and depression were positively proven by operation only four cases presented typical evidence of cerebral compression. Six cases would have been without exploratory incisions, diagnosed as cerebral concussion, only one of which at the time

suggested the possibility of compression. The remaining four cases would probably have been termed simple contusions until compression symptoms developed.

Of five deaths two were unnecessary as they were from infection which resulted in meningitis or cerebritis and could have been prevented. In the other three, death was inevitable as there was such extensive laceration of the membranes and of brain tissue. With these facts before us allow me to offer these few conclusions:

First, depressed fractures of the vault are not always followed immediately by the symptoms of compression and so the time of development of such symptoms is not a conclusive differentiation between depressed bone and intra cranial hemorrhage. Second, cerebral concussion is a misleading term and should be abandoned. Several cases of so-termed "concussion," are really cases of brain laceration and compression will surely follow. Third, in all serious cranial injuries the head should be shaved and the wounds sufficiently enlarged to enable a thoroughly satisfactory exploration and diagnosis. Fourth, the most stringent measures of antiseptic preparation are necessary in their minutest detail to insure the best results. Fifth, drainage is necessary only when the membranes have been torn or opened and should be avoided whenever possible. Sixth, the severe shock so talked about and apparently dreaded by many surgeons in operations upon the cranium, is usually due either to prolonged exposure and anæsthesia or to hemorrhage and is, therefore, nearly always preventable.

A REPLY TO OBJECTIONS TO THE OIL TREATMENT FOR APPENDICITIS.

By M. O. TERRY, M. D., Utica, N. Y.

First, in order to show the slow development of the principle underlying the mechanical treatment of appendicitis by the use of sweet oil, I will mention the fact that many years ago, when the now justly celebrated vaseline was launched forth for professional use, I was called in consultation to see a case which is sometimes denominated dry labor. Pains were frequent, but the uterus failed to relax. After thoroughly lubricating the internal cervix as well as the external surface, and having used fully half a pound of the vaseline, the muscles relaxed and a child was evolved with the greatest of ease within half an hour. This made a profound impression upon my mind.

Again, in 1892, an old gentleman of eighty-five, who had kept his hernia in place for many years with a water bag truss, suddenly felt it slip beneath it, a not uncommon occurrence, and, although accustomed to reduce it easily, on this occasion all his efforts proved futile. When I saw him the parts were very much swollen, the tissues thickened, and the condition resembled more that of a hydrocele than that of a hernia. I suggested an immediate operation, but the old gentleman objected on the ground of his being unable to sustain the shock incident to it, and asked in a pleading way: "Is there nothing else that can be done?" I then suggested the internal administration of sweet oil, two ounces to be taken every three hours, and external application of flax seed, over which was to be poured hot sweet oil. After twenty-four hours' treatment of this sort the tissues showed signs of relaxation, and very moderate taxis twenty-four hours later reduced the hernia; this, forty-eight hours previously, could not be accomplished. This also made a profound impression on my mind.

In spite of the ridicule which some of my distinguished surgical friends saw fit to heap upon me, when I detailed to them the oil treatment for the reduction of strangulated hernia, after the above experience, and looking upon a diseased appendix as a case of strangulation incident to an inflammatory condition located in the cæcum in most instances, I determined to try the principle in conditions of that sort. The treatment given later on will show in explicit terms the method to be pursued for the treatment of appendicitis.

For the medical treatment of appendicitis short of the suppurative stage I can suggest no change from that given in my paper of last year and published then, which consisted in giving some laxative which produced evacuations until the color of same indicated a normal condition. If the patient can take *Castor oil*, it is to be preferred. Of course, the dose should vary, in accordance with the age and peculiarity of the individual, from two to four drachms every three hours. If this could not be retained and the case were urgent I should give from five to ten grains of *Calomel* with twenty to thirty grains of *Bicarbonate of soda* in a glass of water, repeating in three to six hours until a thorough evacuation ensues, although I have never been obliged to give over twenty. I have seen no cases of salivation, the *Bicarbonate of soda* seeming to prevent such a condition. Cases of less urgency may be relieved of constipation or fecal impaction by the use of some of the mineral waters. In some cases Fleming's solution of *Atropia*, gtt. ten (which represents the one-sixtieth of a grain); *Acid Sulphuric*, gtt. ten; *Tinct. Aurantii Cort.*, dr. one; *Magnesia sulph.*, dr. one; *Aqua*, oz. one-half, acts in a remarkable manner for relieving impaction in the bowels. Give this in the morning and the same without the *Atropia* every three hours. Possibly remedies cannot be retained; in such cases I would give an enema, (the colon injection preferred) using from four to six ounces of sweet oil, to be followed by a warm alkaline solution composed of *Bicarbonate of soda*, dr. one, to a quart of water. The position of the patient should be a pelvic elevation, or semi-Trendlenberg position. As an auxiliary treatment I keep constantly applied to the abdomen a hot flaxseed poultice over which has been poured hot sweet oil.

Again, I will state that the twenty-four hours of hesitancy on the part of the surgeon, or a failure to gain the consent of the patient for an operation antedating the suppurative stage, even though there be marked peritonitis, that the active treatment as a whole laid out here will make it unnecessary for the surgical procedure. As I have said, "The philosophy of the oil treatment rests on the fact that muscular tissue contracts under irritation; that an irritation continued leads to congestion; that following this we have an inflammation which may terminate in suppuration and all its direful consequences" of the destruction of the appendix.

Although I may repeat myself in answering questions later on I wish right here to emphasize that the treatment is appropriate for *the inflammatory stage and that operations are not*, and that the many deaths which I have noted in many of the large cities and small ones have been due not so much to delay of the operative procedure as to the shock incident to the operation in the inflammatory stage. The much-boasted small percentage made by some surgeons in these operations I have traced out as false

statements. The "haven't lost a case" has been traced in cases of two very prominent surgeons who lost respectively three out of four in two towns. If the various villages in this country could materialize their dead in evidence of the deception in these cases and the surgeons who operated upon them were compelled to gaze on these returned victims at a reunion mass meeting I believe they would be willing to mark down the clean record before a just condemnation was passed upon them.

A few of the objections made by surgeons through the public press in reference to this treatment of appendicitis I will now answer, as I have previously by letter through the press.

Dr. William J. Nellis, of Albany, N. Y., stated in the *Daily Press and Knickerbocker* of April 5, 1894, that "The cause of the disease cannot be determined at once, although I can diagnose the case and pronounce it appendicitis. If a doctor could tell at once whether the inflammation was produced by a seed or foreign object, or by a cold, there would be no difficulty in determining what to do on the spot. If caused by a seed, no earthly remedy will do but an operation must be performed by a surgeon. If caused by a cold the other treatment can be tried, and as a rule it will be successful; but if the inflammation continues and an abscess forms, it will be too late to continue anything so mild. Delays are dangerous, and six hours will sometimes decide the fate of the patient after this turning point is reached."

With regard to Dr. Nellis I must differ with that gentleman and have explained why in my article that 'the peristaltic action of all tubular structures unless arrested by opiates are ever in motion. Then why should not the circular and longitudinal fibres of the appendix rid the lumen of foreign agents when they happen to get there—especially when irritation and contraction are prevented by sweet oil, and relaxation and good lubrication substituted? I, therefore, emphasize that part of the paper, that the surgical procedure would not be necessary even though it were known absolutely before an operation that foreign substances were in the appendix. The same rules govern the appendix that preside over the thirty feet of the intestinal track; microbes may sail through, and so may foreign bodies—and they do—but a blockade of constipation produces a paralysis of its structures, and, tender like an infant, it has less power of resistance than the mother intestine and, therefore, is the first to take on destructive changes. I do not claim to know the use of the appendix, but do claim that it is an ever-moving tubular structure and can take care of a foreign agent which may enter it by a little assistance. You know that a little oil on an axle will remove the friction which would not only destroy it but the whole wagon would burn if left to itself. With the appendix, it being so small a tube, it would soon strangulate under the contraction incident to the irritation of a foreign body, but by lubrication the arrested peristaltic action or the paralysis due to the inflammation is relieved and it again resumes its vermiform process.

Dr. W. G. MacDonald, in the same paper of April 2, 1894, said: "That while appendicitis might in some cases yield to medical treatment, in many cases nothing but surgery could save the patient. He had known, he said, of cases in which Dr. Terry's medicines would be no more efficacious than a like quantity of water, and he has seen others in which the administration of the amount of *Calomel* prescribed by Dr. Terry would be attended with fatal results."

"There are, it is true," said Dr. MacDonald, "many cases of appendicitis that yield to medical treatment. The physician must depend on his own judgment and experience to determine whether an operation is necessary or not. I do not agree with Dr. Terry that the surgeon's knife has been too freely used in this disease, and as far as his method of treatment is concerned, there is absolutely nothing new about it. All that is well known to every reputable physician. I do not consider Dr. Terry a competent authority in the disease."

In reply to Dr. MacDonald, I said in substance: "I have shown the conditions in which the treatment was not applicable, and there are other conditions in the advanced state which intelligent surgeons will recognize as not coming under the head of this treatment, so the doctor's attempted slurs 'that Dr. Terry's medicines would be no more efficacious than a like quantity of water" in certain cases is absurd in view of my statement of exceptions. The cases where the doctor states injury would follow the treatment, are cases in which I would not use it. Although the most recent standard work on surgery (*The American*) shows a mortality of twelve per cent., the truth remains that the mortality in the country is much greater. Recently I visited a village where three operations had been performed but all had died. The methods which I use saved a professor in the same village within thirty days. As to the newness of the treatment I challenge the doctor to prove the assertion that all reputable physicians are familiar with the treatment. He must show that such treatment exists in a standard work or has been largely circulated in medical journals, and furthermore that such publication antedates the articles which I have written in the *Medical Times*, of New York, and in the *Orificial Journal* of Chicago."

Dr. R. T. Morris, of New York City, connected with the Post Graduate School of Medicine and especially distinguished for his operations for appendicitis, in a letter, dated May 1st, 1894, and published in the *Ithaca Journal* objected to the oil treatment for appendicitis, in substance, as follows: "The sweet oil treatment of appendicitis was in common use long before we had learned to manage the disease properly, and while it is very useful in relieving symptoms it is never of avail in the cases which are to result in troublesome complications or death. The reason why it must fail in such cases is because the bacteria which cause the disaster are out of reach of any medicament. Only about ten per cent. of appendicitis patients die in the first attack, and the knowledge of this fact tempts us to unwisely apply medical resources in many cases. Appendicitis is today entirely under our control and deaths from this disease are unnecessary if the patient is where he can have the appendix removed at the first appearance of the infection. No physician can tell in advance whether any one attack is to prove fatal, or to cause chronic invalidism, or to end quickly without trouble.

"Early removal of an infected appendix means saving of time, saving of distress and saving of life. The disease is so common that we have all lost friends and acquaintances from it, sometimes under an alias of peritonitis, or obstruction of the bowels, or bilious colic."

In reply to the above criticism I stated, in substance: "Unquestionably the knife can save cases in the suppurative stage of appendicitis, when you are called in late, and it is here that the skill of the sur-

geon can in the majority of cases save life. If citizens throughout the country will do just a little thinking for themselves it is my opinion that the suppurative stage of appendicitis will seldom, if ever, be reached, and the surgeon's skill in this almost specialty will be only exceptionally seen. Look into the physiology of your lives, and after you have gained the information that every organ has its peculiar function, and that the system demands the regularity of an excellent timekeeper in order to preserve health to the body, that the most necessary part of the structure is the diurnal attention to the intestinal tract, and finally if the peristalsis or ever moving tube which conducts the refuse of the body as well as the microbes,—which are now considered one of the causes of *appendicitis*,—along the thirty feet of intestinal track, is suspended, the difficulty which causes the appendicitis will be seen to begin in the cæcum. It is a bag-like affair located in most cases in such a pendant position that obstruction in the cæcum means strangulation and death of the infantile intestinal protuberance, unless relief begins early. If such be the condition which is the more rational, a good cathartic or the knife? Is it not good reasoning to apply in the meantime hot fomentations with oil for its relaxing effects, and if it be good on the outside, is it not reasonable, theoretically, that muscular fibers will suspend contraction if taken internally?"

In concluding this paper, it has been my aim to impress one thought, at least, in regard to the stages applicable for the oil treatment, and I will emphasize it now. It is applicable for every symptom which leads eventually to appendicitis, including the inflammatory stage up to the suppurative, and I believe if this rule of limitation be taken as a guide the suppurative stage will seldom, if ever, be reached and the surgeon's knife and the fear of the people in regard to appendicitis will be a thing of the past.

Gynecology.

GYNECOLOGICAL REFLEXES.

By WM. LOWE, M. D., Wentworth, South Dakota.

South Dakota Homeopathic Medical Association.

The governing center of female life is located in the pelvic organs.

The highly sensitive nervous system of woman answers quickly to peripheral irritation, and any disturbance of the sympathetic terminal nerves of the pelvis meets with corresponding vibration, and is often greatly intensified in the spinal and cerebral centers.

Often we are perplexed with the physiological waves affecting the brain as the result of great epochs in the functional life of woman's reproductive organs, and are constantly on the lookout for the peripheral nerve pains which accompany uterine, ovarian or rectal diseases.

Through the sympathetic nervous system the cerebro-spinal center may be slightly or profoundly affected by irritation of the sexual organs or rectum. We see this illustrated from time to time in our practice.

The ramifications of the sympathetic and the ganglionic systems interwoven with the filaments of the spinal nerves are so complex that it is often very difficult to locate the cause of reflex symptoms, but it is a notable fact that female genital lesions find expression in organs remote from the pelvis, and these reflex phenomena are generally the most numerous and striking.

To differentiate between physiological and pathological genito-reflex neuroses, nasal and anal reflexes and bronchial neuroses is a task of some magnitude.

The uterus and ovaries, vasomotor nerves, and the central nervous system are so intimately constructed, that the circulatory and respiratory systems respond readily to morbid impulse, conveyed by irritation of the uterine, ovarian and anal terminals. Tilt writes "The pneumogastric nerve is a bridge which unites the central portion of both nervous systems, resembling both, not well isolated, often anastomosing with the sympathetic, which helps to form the cœliac plexus, so that affections of the vagus and the epigastric ganglia generally coincide and the viscera, by their ganglia, react upon the brain, and a paralysis of the epigastric centers cause this uneasy sensation in the pit of the stomach, a feeling of sickness and faintness, nausea, weakness and perverted appetite."

Leucorrhœa and uterine pains are the result of nervous debility, and hemorrhage or a cessation of the menstrual flow may give rise to nervous shock.

Epileptiform attacks are sometimes due to stenosis of the cervix and are often relieved by dilatation of the uterine canal.

Trachelorrhaphy has cured very promptly persistant melancholia with great nervous debility. A tampon properly applied to the uterus will often remove heart, lung and brain symptoms.

Laceration of the cervix causes frequently a neuralgiac condition which may not disappear until many months after the repair.

In some cases of long standing the damage to the nerves may never be overcome.

Eye specialists, after years of treating all eye symptoms as the real lesion, have discovered that in woman fully eight-tenths of their cases arise from some diseased condition of the pelvic organs. As this inflammation is relieved the eye trouble is improved.

Asthma, dyspepsia, headache, mental aberration may follow derangements of the female sexual organs.

Uterine and ovarian disease is often accompanied by nervous irritability, fear of impending danger, insanity, insomnia, spinal and abdominal pains, and pains on top of the head and in the back of the neck, are indications of chronic uterine disturbance.

These facts gleaned from the field of experience, are more or less familiar to the gynecologist whose experience has taught him that the heart, stomach, brain and pelvic organs are so closely related to each other that a lesion in the pelvis may seriously interfere with the regular action of the heart, and affect the distribution of the blood in various parts of the body, render the stomach so sensitive that the use of the simplest food will cause uneasiness and great distress, irritate and hamper the whole nervous system to an unlimited extent.

A few instances gleaned from my note-book will exemplify the truth of the foregoing statements:

Case 1. — Mrs B——, Spencer, South Dakota, housewife, aged thirty, mother of three children, came for examination November 20th, 1893. I obtained the following history: Youngest child two years old, couldn't walk for three weeks after the birth of this child, then quite difficult for some

length of time, has been worse since then. Has backache, bearing down, cystitis, dizzy spells. Last summer and at the above time the pains extend to back, also running up back and sides into arms. Has burning sensations, cold streaks in limbs, headache, great soreness across abdomen. Doctor Lawyer, of Spencer, who claims that Homeopaths are quacks, told her she had kidney disease. Her poor kidneys were drenched for weeks. An examination of urine showed it was normal, and specific gravity 1020. She has an ovarian tumor. My diagnosis has been confirmed by my friend Doctor King. She needs an operation. June 20th, assisted by Dr. King and Doctor Wyman, Allopath, we expect to operate. We trust and hope that she will see her reflex symptoms that have troubled her for several years wiped away.

Case 2.—Mrs. D——, of Taopi, South Dakota, aged thirty-three, visited my office November 24th, 1893, housewife, has had four births and four miscarriages, was well before marriage, not so well since birth of first child. Was attacked with asthma at this time. Youngest child eight months old, health quite poor since, is growing worse, has catarrh of nose and throat; has lacerated cervix, chronic endometritis, considerable pain low down across abdomen, has soreness to touch and backache. Thought she was running into consumption. After examination of the case informed her friends that an operation was necessary. We gave her several months' treatment to reduce the inflammation during which time we gave her treatment for catarrh. Performed trachelorrhaphy April 11th, 1894. We curreted at that time, removing numerous vegetations. She is improving rapidly, catarrh and asthma are better. The bearing down, soreness and pain relieved. She has a new lease of life, and the mention of consumption elicits a smile.

These cases fully illustrate the matter of reflex uterine and ovarian neuroses. If we had founded our diagnosis in these two cases upon the symptoms, we would have made as serious a mistake as our "know-all" Allopathic predecessors.

In the second case, we find that the asthma undoubtedly resulted from the laceration of the cervix.

I will close this paper with the history of a case showing reflex neuroses depending upon pathological condition of the rectum.

Case 3.—Mrs. W——, Lennox, South Dakota, aged fifty-one; gave her an examination September 15th, 1893; has had five children. Last summer boarded railroad graders; broke down completely, becoming so weak that she had at times to get down on her knees to finish washing dishes. For a year has had soreness over stomach and abdomen. The last four or five months couldn't rest hand over abdomen, so much soreness existed. Constipated, poor appetite. Has bad feelings in head. Obstinate insomnia is present. For years has had what she calls from the severity of the pain "cholera morbus pains in stomach and bowels;" has had chills and fever at night for several years; complains of a smothered feeling after retiring; awakes from sleep, has to rise up to obtain relief; has several of these attacks each night. Has erosion of the cervix; complains of severe pains in the region of the coccyx. Can't sit down with comfort. Examination of that region and the rectum revealed, first, traumatic injury to coccyx, second, aggravated form of haemorrhoids; told her she might need several operations. Performed the American operation October 20th, 1893. We dilated the sigmoid flexture also. Piles were almost fibrous, being very hard, with a very tenacious attachment to the underlying tissues which made the dissection somewhat laborious. Reaction good. Five days after the operation could lay her hands across bowels without discomfort. Remarked that if she had for a moment thought that the rectal trouble was the cause of that distress, she would have had an operation long ago. In a day or two more she said her head felt clear as a bell. In some respects reaction seemed slow. Treated her with electricity and other means. All symptoms not disappearing and complaining of pains radiating from the coccyx we decided to operate January 17th, 1894, upon the coccyx, removing it entire. This gave relief to those pains. Ever since the first operation her bowels have moved like clock-work. Saw her May 30th. Has shown continued gain in strength since last operation. Fever, chills, smothered feeling, cholera morbus pains have all disappeared. Has good appetite, sleeps well, is cheerful. Does her housework. She has full cheeks, with many of the wrinkles effaced and looking apparently ten years younger.

In the oft recurring multiform symptomatic condition with which we have to deal as specialists let us search for the injured nerves which have so long been sending out signals of distress, and not stop until we have discovered the lesion or irritation which has been the prime cause.

SALPINGO-OOPHORECTOMY AS A TREATMENT FOR INSANITY.

By W. M. BAILEY, M. D., Detroit, Mich.

Homeopatic Medical Society of Michigan.

The question of the removal of the uterus and its appendages, or any portion of the same, for the cure of insanity is a subject which has only recently received the attention of the medical profession.

It is not my intention at this time to enter into any argument to show that operation on these organs will effect a cure in all cases of insanity, but I am firmly convinced that a large percentage of cases can be traced to a diseased condition of the pelvic organs, and that in such cases, relief, if not a permanent cure, may be effected by the removal of the diseased organs. In support of this theory I wish simply to present a case which recently came under my care which was to me, and some of my professional brethren, very interesting, and I trust it may be equally so to other members of the profession.

Mrs. ——, aged about thirty-four, bilious temperament, dark hair and eyes, well formed and well nourished, medium height, weighing about one hundred and thirty pounds; family history good, as far as can be ascertained, married at about the age of twenty-two, one child, no miscarriages, cervix and perineum badly lacerated. In course of time she became a widow, and about five years later married again, married life very pleasant and happy, having all the comforts of life, no children by second marriage. Since birth of her child has been the victim of pelvic troubles which were supposed to be due to the laceration. November, 1890, performed trachelorraphy and parineoraphy with good result; health much improved since the operation, but still complains of tired

feeling and sense of weight in right ovarian region, worse at each menstrual period which occurred regularly once in twenty-eight days and in all respects normal.

Had not been called to see her professionally for about two years until September 30, 1893. Mrs. —— has been suffering for the past three days with a delusion that her birth was shrouded in mystery, suffering great mental agony, in consequence; also that she was a great heiress entitled to unlimited wealth as soon as the cloud could be removed from her birth; insists on some one remaining with her constantly, as she only sleeps from five to ten minutes at a time since first becoming disturbed.

October 1st. Much the same only getting worse.

October 2d. Still more restless; has to be watched constantly to prevent her from leaving the house. Taken to Grace Hospital and placed in charge of a special nurse.

October 3d. Becoming more disturbed and noisy; during the night of the 5th removed to the padded room, as she disturbed the whole hospital with her screams.

October 6th. Nurse has entirely lost control of her and an older and stronger nurse placed in charge.

Upon making an examination of the sexual organs she complains of tenderness in both ovarian regions, especially in the right. Bi-manual examination revealed slight enlargement of the right ovary—not able to detect any enlargement on the left side.

October 7th. Patient becoming more disturbed I informed the husband that she must be removed to an asylum as the hospital could not longer be kept in a state of excitement by her outcries. He asked if there was no other course to pursue as he would rather see her placed in her coffin than in an asylum, I informed him that there was but one thing more that I could suggest and that would be entirely experimental so far as my own experience was concerned, which was removal of the ovaries. After due consideration he instructed me to proceed with the operation at my earliest convenience.

October 9th. I removed the ovaries and Fallopian tubes. The right ovary was about one and a half times larger than normal and contained a pus cavity about three-eighths of an inch in diameter; the left was about normal in size and contained several cysts from one-eighth to one-fourth of an inch in diameter. Both Fallopian tubes were congested, otherwise normal.

She made a rapid recovery from the operation returning to her home in a carriage in two weeks, resuming the management of her household as though nothing had happened, her mind perfectly clear and has remained so up to the present time. The special features of this case are well told in the nurse's written report to me, which is appended hereto.

NURSE'S REPORT.

"Friday, October 6th, 1893. On entering the room I found the patient kneeling on the floor with her shoulders draped in a shawl and a fine handkerchief covering her face for a veil, imagining herself to be "Marguerite," and her nurse a "Faust," with whom she was acting the opera she had seen the previous week. While persuading her to rise and go toward the bed, she fell on the floor and became perfectly rigid. In attempting to lift her she choked me almost into insensibility; I dropped her on the floor again and allowed her to remain there until she arose voluntarily.

After about an hour's raving, succeeded in putting patient in bed, where she remained until after dinner, talking incessantly of relatives who had deceived her; of medicines given as poison; of her hair turning black as ink; of the nurses being devils coming in to kill her, and clinging to me, calling me mother; saying I had come to protect her from harm and devils. She rested in my arms while I rubbed her head for two hours, after which she sat up in a chair and talked to me in a perfectly rational manner for two and a half hours. While seemingly rational, her meals were thoroughly enjoyed; at other times some kinds of food were refused, saying they were poison. Expectorations of white froth were very profuse; complained of severe pain in region of heart, lower part of abdomen and back part of head; imagined she carried a cross nailed to her shoulders.

Saturday, October 7th. Patient raved about being charged with electricity, so that the bed and chairs hurt her. Held her on my lap and rocked her nearly all day which seemed to be the only means of keeping her quiet. At night was very much disturbed. Jumped up, whirled around, screamed, and tried to bite the nurse who was on relief. Became so noisy as to disturb other patients on the corridor and was transferred to the padded room where she raved all night, breathing very difficult, unable to urinate, feet cold, body wet with perspiration, pupils much dilated.

Sunday, Oct. 8th. Patient thoroughly exhausted, seemed in a partial stupor all day.

Monday Oct. 9th. Ovariotomy performed at 9 o'clock A.M. After operation, patient had no nausea from the anesthetic and complained of very little pain. About twelve o'clock patient got out of bed in spite of two nurses, tore the dressings from the abdomen. threw them about the room, and succeeded in getting out in the corridor. With the assistance of a male nurse and the house surgeon she was put back in bed, dressings re-applied and a nurse placed on each side of the bed to keep her from again removing the dressings, they were obliged to hold her hands constantly, but she would make every effort to escape.

At 3 P.M. she had become unmanageable, fighting like a tigress, straight jacket applied by order of doctor, hands, feet, and body strapped down so that she could neither injure herself or get away. Very restless and talking incessantly, would sleep from five to ten minutes occasionally. During the night talked almost constantly but did not scream as before so as to disturb other patients on the corridor.

Tuesday, Oct. 10th. Much the same as yesterday only not quite so restless.

Wednesday, Oct. 11th. Patient slept some during the previous night and is rational the greater portion of the time, begged to have her hands released and promises not to disturb the dressing or do anything she ought not to do, if her wish is complied with. Hands released by permission of the doctor. She has kept her word, is very quiet and realizes that she has not been herself for several days; seldom refers to her former hallucinations; temperature since the operation has ranged from 100 3-10 to 98 2-10, pulse 98 to 76, slept some during the day and

the greater part of the night. Patient menstruating.

Thursday, Oct. 12th. Patient very quiet and perfectly rational, asks to have the straps removed; says she knows what she is about now and will do nothing she ought not to do. Straps removed by order of the doctor; patient still menstruating; urinates voluntarily; ate a hearty dinner; permitted to order her own meals and have anything she desires. Complains of whirling in her head; otherwise is very comfortable and free from pain.

Friday, Oct. 13th. Slept well during the previous night; in the morning complained of severe pain in nipples which passed off during the day; menstruation ceased, which had been about the same as usual; patient feeling very comfortable and mind perfectly clear. Steady improvement with nothing particular to record.

Monday, Oct. 16th. Sutures removed.

Tuesday, Oct. 17th. Sat up and walked about the room.

Thursday, Oct. 19th. Taken out in a wheel chair upon the street.

Patient steadily improved and on Monday, two weeks after the operation, returned to her home with her mind perfectly clear.

E. T. Jewett."

A NEW SPECULUM.

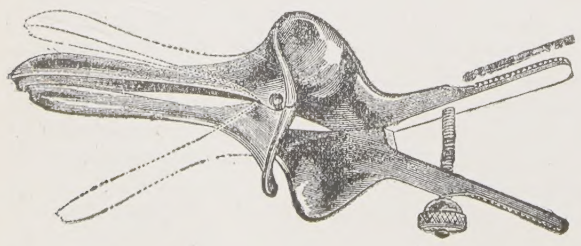
By C. F. BENNETT, M. D., Waterloo, Iowa.

An apology is now almost necessary for a new vaginal speculum, for out of the scores of patterns it seems as though every desire could be satisfied. However, an instrument combining the valuable features of all good bivalve specula did not seem to be obtainable, and this is the result.

Simplicity, cleanliness and ease of manipulation, as well as anatomical fitness, are the important points in any instrument. The old Miller pattern is so simple in its construction that it has been used as a model. By making a slot and flattened pivot on one side the blades become separable and the adjusting screw is made detachable, thus providing for asepsis.

A new feature is the depression made at the ends of blades, so ground out that when these are opened a cylinder is obtained to correspond with the conical shape of cervix. With the ordinary shape, the opening of the blades gives a slit instead of a circular aperture. The advantage is more complete exposure and fixity of cervix and more even dilatation, the ordinary pattern acting practically from two points at tips of blades. The ease of introduction is not changed.

The instrument is also made, if so desired, with insulation between blades, for electrical purposes. This last idea is one of great importance where the laxness of muscular and fibrous tissue of vagina and adjacent tissues are causes of various pathological changes.



The accompanying wood cut gives a rather poor idea of the features enumerated.

I have to thank the firm of Armstrong & Co., Indianapolis, for having carried out my ideas and providing me with samples for my use.

Psychology.

THE STUDY OF PSYCHOLOGY.

By J. D. BUCK, M. D., Cincinnati.

Prof. Practice of Medicine Pulte Medical College.

In presenting the following suggestions for the consideration of my fellows in the American Institute of Homeopathy I run the almost certain chance of being regarded either as a dreamer or as a crank. I am willing to incur this risk if only I can be instrumental in instituting other methods of investigating the nature and phenomena of the human mind, and aid but a little in finally preventing the increase at least, if not in decreasing the spread of insanity in all its varied forms. Humanity presents no sadder picture than the wreck of the human mind. Insanity is notably on the increase, and with all our boasted progress we seldom prevent, and still less frequently do we restore to reason, those who are thus afflicted. The per cent. of complete recoveries is small; the number of the insane is very large. There is no royal road to the knowledge here so much needed. We can hope for no panacea, we need look for no magical results. If success is to be finally attained it will come from deep research, and persistent delving into the concealed laws of the human mind. We must wrench by sheer force of intelligent will this knowledge from the great unknown. Results are at present unsatisfactory because our knowledge is meagre, and I expect to show that the meagreness of our knowledge is almost entirely due to faulty methods of investigation.

We have been tied to so-called schools of psychology that have been utterly barren of results. We have followed tradition and authority only to be lost in a labyrinth of conjecture, and to be rescued only by being returned to our point of departure no wiser than when we set out and happy to have escaped with our reason. Now, a crank has been defined as "a specialist on a subject in which no one else is interested" I cannot, therefore, admit that I am a crank on the subject of psychology, without laying under censure all of my professional brethren, for if they are not interested in the subject, no one dare claim that as physicians, as healers of men, they ought not to be interested in the subject. The subject has been rendered so abstruse as to induce apathy, and lead to despair of ever mastering it. The subject is indeed difficult, but it has been rendered needlessly so by copying in detail all former speculations and errors, and thus dragging along a dead-weight of material that is worse than useless. If all previous speculations were blotted out, and one of fair intelligence set about the work in earnest to examine available facts in psychology, and to draw therefrom logical deductions regarding the laws and operation of the human mind, and to establish a working hypothesis, more might be accomplished in six months than by previous methods in half a lifetime, and this any physician of ordinary intelligence may do. If he will

cast loose from his traditions and begin *de novo* he will be surprised at the result. Is not this precisely the course pursued by Hahnemann with Homeopathy as the result ? and may we not learn wisdom by past experience?

Every body of knowledge, such as psychology ought to be, has two sides or phases, a scientific and philosophical. The scientific aspect regards facts, observations and experimentations, and involves inductive and deductive reasoning. The philosophical aspect, proceeding from the facts derived by science and the inferences to be drawn therefrom by inductive and deductive reasoning undertakes to deduce the underlying law and to discern the the rational order pervading the universe. The "working hypothesis" concerning which we hear so much, is a special theorem but not a universal law. It is rather tentative than final; constricted rather than universal; and it ceases to be an hypothesis only when it is demonstrated to be a law. The whole domain of psychology, and every special problem therein, comes under these two heads; that is, has a scientific and a philosophical aspect; and my first criticism is that the philosophical aspect has been almost entirely ignored.

We have had no end of speculation, and numberless hypotheses, but nothing deserving the name of philosophy. We have therefore failed to discern the rational order underlying the nature of man. We may cut and carve, analyze, weigh, measure and classify till doom's day without learning the real secret in psychology. We are today overwhelmed with facts, and yet we are ignorant of the methods of the human mind, or the nature of the human soul. Prof. Clifford has declared that prior to 1837 (little more than fifty years ago), the science of man, and the sciences that cluster around the personality of man, had scarcely yet begun to be dreamed of. A writer in the *Popular Science Review*, vol. xlv, p. 252, says: There is an evident convergence of all sciences, from physics to chemistry and physiology toward some doctrine of evolution and development of which the facts of Darwinism will form a part, but what ultimate aspect this doctrine will take, there is little, if any, evidence to show, and perhaps it will not be shaped by the human mind until metaphysical as well as physical inquiries are much more advanced.

This is my second point of criticism, for it is this very metaphysical inquiry which can alone supplement our so-called science of psychology with a complete philosophy of the human mind and soul, and so round up our knowledge of man. We have enough of experimental psychology, even without that recently proposed apotheosis of diabolism—"human vivisection." What we now need is a constructive psychology, and this is a work of philosophy, impossible without metaphysics.

The brain and nervous mechanism are the organs through which man, the thinker, comes into relations with the physical universe. Modern science proceeds on a basis that is absurd and contradictory. It regards matter as dead, inert, and brutal; and yet regards mind, life and consciousness, as "properties of matter." It dodges the real issue by regarding these higher manifestations as the result of association. That which is itself dead and inert manifests life by association! As though two dead men, or two blocks of stone sprung to life by being placed side by side! Neither could impart to the other that which it did not possess. It would be more logical to affirm that two dead men are twice as dead as one. No form of association that may be assumed can alter the problem in the least. If life arises by association it must exist potentially in the things associated. The potency of life and mind and consciousness are latent in all matter, and association can serve only to manifest them phenomenally. The organism is an association of matter of a definite form, existing under definite laws, for the manifestation of life, mind and consciousness. These belong generically and in latency to all matter, but specifically and in definite form to the organism that manifests them. The human brain manifests mind, first: by virtue of the latent intelligence underlying all matter, as a basis of supply. Second: by virtue of organization, development and integrity of structure; and third: an individuality is thus manifested, as an epitome of the underlying universal principle. What universal intelligence is to cosmos, determining law, order, association, integration, disintegration, and all phenomenal manifestation—that man's individual intelligence is to him, likewise determining all association and manifestation.

If worlds dissolve into primeval chaos the intelligence of nature is not thereby annulled. Nature but thereby changes the plane and form of manifestation, and the latent intelligence pervading all matter reforms, and re-evolves a new heaven and a new earth from the dust or nebula of the old. It is above all things surprising to what lengths man will go to disprove and deny the existence of his own soul. He will accept its existance, even as a working hypothesis, only when he can by no possible means get rid of it. I have referred to the brain as the organ through which man man manifests intelligence.

Every phenomenon and every process of thought implies a thinker. Every thought, as every other experience, is a change in our states of consciousness. The brain does not think any more than does the liver. Man uses the brain as an agent of thought to present the world to consciousness in terms of experience with matter. The planes of consciousness are many and the conditions and experiences of consciousness are as variable and as innumerable as our thoughts.

Psychology has hitherto confined itself almost exclusively to the study of the structure of the brain and nerves, and the form and function in the manifestation of thought. This is the phenomenal and scientific side of the problem only, and forms but one-half, and no more, of the equation of thought and consciousness. The equation has not only not been solved, it has not been even intelligently formulated, for the relation of the known to the unknown, of the seen to the unseen, of the thinker to the organ and manifestation of thought, has not been defined or determined. This unknown and undefined realm is metaphysical—that is—it transcends the plane of crude, visible matter, just as thought transcends the brain, though dependent upon it for outward rational manifestation. Only when this metaphysical realm is clearly apprehended and intelligently defined will science be supplemented by a complete philosophy of the human mind, and man discern the rational order that pervades the universal

life of man, body, mind, and soul. When man thus discerns the nature and manifestation of the human mind in health, and is able to discern what it will be when ideally complete and perfect, then will he be able to apprehend clearly every form of disease or mental alienation, and never till then. Such knowledge in no wise transcends the possibility of human achievement, but it will never be achieved by any empirical method, or one-sided investigation. Man alone has self-consciousness, and the human mind alone of all earthly existences is capable of investigating and apprehending its own nature.

Self-knowledge is the acme of human evolution, but it will never be gained by beginning with a denial of the existence of the real self, the thinker. Diseased tissue and perverted brain function leads undoubtedly to mental alienation in numberless forms. One may begin with an assertion, no matter how absurd, iterate and reiterate it till it is finally believed; till it enters the realm of consciousness as an actual experience, and man becomes hag-ridden by a thought, a delusion of his own creation, and ends his days in a madhouse or by suicide. This would be an assault from the metaphysical side of man's nature. No function of the brain, no physical structure need be *originally* disturbed. Thousands of the hopelessly insane have thus begun, ignorant of the outcome, and the physician, if consulted, equally ignorant of the law of "suggestion" or "auto-hypnotism." How long will it take the medical world to learn that thoughts are things, and that every thought form is as veritable an entity as is the physical brain? I undertake to say that this invisible metaphysical realm of man's being is the source in which originates two-thirds, at least, of all insanities, and yet it is given over to superstition, ignored or ridiculed. Are not we who build madhouses insane, rather than those who occupy them as wards of the state? That thought can be controlled, directed, transmitted as a motive power to other minds, is an idea that is good for parlor amusement or an evening's pastime, or at best, to be flirted with by our so-called "Societies for Psychic Research," and a few centuries hence mankind will waken to the fact that we have been playing with dynamite, and "didn't know it was loaded." Meantime, if the "wards of the state" happen to outnumber their keepers, and take it into their crazy heads to change places, or form a "Coxey's Army" and strike for liberty, who will be to blame? If mental alienation once becomes fashionable and "all the rage," as seems likely by present indications, and the minority including the doctors are sequestered, the writers on the jurisprudence of insanity of the twenty-first century, will record something like the following in their encyclopædias. "Insanity—originally supposed to be due to the disfavor of the Gods, under the foolish supposition that 'whom the Gods would destroy they first make mad;' afterwards supposed to be due to an indwelling devil. The victims were, at the beginning of the eighteenth century, chained in pens like wild beasts, beaten and starved, while the 'doctors of divinity' sought with 'bell-book and candle' to exorcise the demon. Later on, the insane were confined in palaces supported by the state and fed on morphine and chloral to make them peaceable and contented and save trouble to their keepers! At the beginning of the present era of enlightenment the so-called insane outnumbered their goalers and took the reins of government into their own hands, since which time insanity has been recognized as the natural estate of man, and as the minority of sane fools is fast dying out, millennium is expected when the last of them has expiated his folly in daring to dissent from the verdict of the great majority. The meek may indeed inherit the earth, and the lion and the lamb sleep on the same bunch of straw, but pandemonium proposes to set the fashion in this enlightened twenty-first century!" What, after all, but a biting sarcasm is all our boasted science and civilization, when we are ignorant of the first and simplest law of the human mind? When we helplessly and hopelessly cover the land with insane asylums, and ridicule every attempt at enlightenment, and when half the world, including nearly all the alleged physicians, sneer with contempt at any suggestion of better methods or any hope of better results, the stress of social problems is upon us, and Coxey's army is but a foretaste of the future, and the fancy picture of a couple of centuries hence, may, long ere that time, be a horrible reality, unless we change our methods in the practical study of psychology. Mind is in no sense a "function of matter," but every atom of matter in the universe is *precipitated mind*, endowed with potential life and consciousness; and the working hypothesis of "modern science" is the apothesis of materialism and the nihilism of the human soul, and insanity is its trade mark.

What I desire particularly to emphasize is the fact that psychology naturally has two sides, viz: the physical and the physiological on the one hand, and the meta-physical and philosophical on the other. It is the latter half that I would see rescued from empiricism, materialism and superstition. It is from this direction almost entirely that progress may be reasonably expected, and in this direction the scalpel and the microscope are practically useless. We know enough already of physiological and structural conditions and changes to carry us a long way in constructive psychology; and we have also empirical data and facts and observed phenomena sufficient for the foundations of a real science of psychology. The trouble is that our methods and point of departure are all wrong, and never until we change these can real progress be made. Just as our progress in general pathology waited for more accurate knowledge of anatomy and physiology, so mental pathology now waits upon real and exact knowledge of the nature and operations of the human mind, and this knowledge must be sought in the realm of metaphysics.

With the great majority of persons the very name metaphysics is a bugbear and a synonym for credulity, and superstition, and the wildest speculation, when in fact it is precisely the opposite of all these. Metaphysics consists of logical reasoning from the basis of ascertained facts and phenomena by induction and deduction. The guide in this process is analogy, and the final object is the discovery of the rational order pervading the universe and the entire nature of man. The result is the discovery of law. Mathematics is often called the only really exact science, and yet from beginning to end mathemstics rests on metaphysics and depends on the very processes I have already named for its results.

The close of the next century may witness the presence of a true science of psychology. The next ten

years are amply sufficient for its acquirement if we would at once go to work in earnest and in the right way. Doubtless two thirds of the heads of my auditors would at once fall into the arms of morpheus if I were to declare that such a science and philosophy as that to which I have all along referred exist already, have existed, though generally unrecognized and unknown, for thousands of years, and may be had for the asking from those sources that made Plato, Pythagoras Newton and Schopenhauer famous through all time. But, I shall be asked, "If this is so why has it not been discovered and recognized by men of science?" I only answer, why has not the old school of medicine recognized Homeopathy? The answer to my question may serve as an answer to yours. Nothing short of the trephine will change old methods and introduce new ideas into the majority of heads. It is troublesome to think, and often disagreeable to recognize new truths and champion new ideas. The great majority who rule the world by sheer force of numbers usually make faces and call names to conceal their own ignorance. It is so much easier than to think, and so much more orthodox and respectable than to innovate. What grand and new truth, or what old and forgotten one has ever come to the world except by running such amuck with bigotry and stupidity? What champion from Galileo to Hahnemann and down to the present time has ever met any other fate than theirs? We have changed our methods of execution, nothing more. We still pay a premium for stupidity and honor mediocrity, as the concensus of fools; while our leaders are blackguarded or persecuted during their life time, and when encouragement and appreciation can no more trim the lamp of truth, or lend inspiration to the sensitive seer and child of genius, we build monuments to our own past stupidity and present repentance, only to repeat the same tragedy tomorrow! Read the history of Mesmer and Von Reichenback in the light of the present craze over hypnotism, and then bow in reverence to the prestige of the French Academy. Even Edison's phonograph was before this august body declared to be a "trick of ventriloquism," because a "physiological impossibility." Such august bodies affect to despise the rabble which they nevertheless epitomize. The few only are really free, and the price of freedom and enlightenment is ever a crown of thorns or a cup of hemlock.

The wheels of progress are clogged, and those who would ride in the chariot of the sun will find the atmosphere rare and chilling, and must prepare to ride alone with the dogs of detraction barking at their wheels. I have written earnestly, because I feel deeply this hindrance to the advancement of man. The need of knowledge is sore and pressing. "Things settled by long use at least fit well together," as Bacon says. We palliate and tolerate diseases that we ought to prevent, and trust to the oblivion of the grave to conceal our ignorance and stupidity, or the surgeon mercifully removes the organs we fail to restore. If mutilation should come at last to be perpetuated by natural selection, atavism, and not evolution, would become the universal law, till nothing human would be fitted to survive.

Whenever we are ready to follow Hahnemann's example and cut loose from tradition and authority, and treat all ignorant opposition or misrepresentation with silent contempt, content to seek truth for its own sake, then, and then only, may we look for real progress in psychology. Its study may be made not only profitable, but inspiring and delightful. Nothing is so inspiring as real progress, as the exploration of realms hitherto supposed to be inaccessible to man; as pushing back the borders of the supposed unknowable. If such knowledge is really sought for the benefit of man, reverence and repose come to the explorer as with patient climbing he ascends the delectable mountains.

He forgets that he is weary and foot-sore—forgets that he is alone—for he is nearing at every step the Infinite, and if his goal forever recedes so also does his ignorant past, till the great diapason of nature forever reverberates in his own soul.

Sanitary Science.

SEXUAL ERRORS.

By J. C. NOTTINGHAM, M. D., Bay City, Mich.

MICHIGAN HOMEOPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETY.

The only explanation I offer for presenting this subject in this vague manner is because the literature upon this subject is not of such a character, or in such a truly practical physiological form, as to warrant reference thereto, only to criticise it; and I do not believe such a criticism would be of interest or advantage here. Therefore I present this subject in a wholly original manner, soliciting your candid consideration and investigation; and I hope to have your thoughtful criticism now, and later, when you may be able to give the subject the consideration it merits at your hands.

The influence of the sexual system upon life, health, capabilities, character and dispositions, are yet not well known, or if well known, not allowed to be fully considered as the cause of disease phenomena, or disease disintegration of organs.

"The human body when it has attained a development nearly complete, is the least exposed to sickness from transient influence or from the deprivation from its accustomed food, because the powers of life existing in their integrity overpower any injurious effects from such before they can make any progress." Bradford's life of Hahnemann, chapter XXII.

Mothers, fathers, health educators, and physicians give too little attention to the sexual system and the part these organs play in the role of health and disease.

No function of the human body is so much abused, not even the stomach. To no system of the human economy do we owe greater allegiance than to this, the sexual system.

All sensuality, pruriency, irritability of mind and conduct, as well as immodesty comes of unnatural or morbid conditions affecting the sexual system, or are effected by the sexual system.

The brain centers which receive and conceive all sexual impulses likewise distribute all other impulses and emotions, which are reflected to the surface, and stand out as nature's guideboards to the key of personality, health and disease.

While all nervous diseases, irritable dispositions, emotional natures and incentives to immodesty, vice and crime, may not originate from the sexual system, yet their causes are closely allied to this system.

Varied conditions of the sexual system will produce these troublesome characters and diseases, and even death, more lingering and more dreadful, and in the advanced stages as incurable as pulmonary consumption or general tuberculosis.

To discern the tendencies to sexual pruriences in the infant and child, and advise a regimen and therapeutics specifically adapted to each individual, with wholesome instructions to parents or guardians to continue proper watchfulness and medication, is the province of the physician and his or her duty just as much as in worms or a predisposition to tuberculosis, diphtheria or croup.

June 10th, 1876, I was called to see a Miss W——, aged seventeen, of good family, who, I was informed, had been suspected of having too much intimacy with a young man far below her position in society, and the brother leveled a gun upon the intruder, demanding that he retract his saying that he had held such unlawful intimacy at her own solicitation. The young man insisted that it was true, and said if he did not believe him, to examine the labia, where could be found a mole. This apparent impudence and boldness caused the brother to reflect and attempt to investigate whether he was right in his assertions or not. The mole was found, and the young lady gave a history of constant sexual excitement producing a condition of irresponsibility. The parents were regular attendants upon the services of the M. E. Church, and the young lady was always with them, an active and willing worker in Sabbath School, a modest and retired, though delicate looking lady.

The mole was removed and the indicated remedies given with gratifying results, a return of youthful appearance, and freedom from sexual pruriency and its deprecatory results, mental and physical.

July 12th, 1887, Mrs R.——, aged twenty-seven, a slender brunette, was found helpless in her bed with recurring spasms of dyspnœa, an anxious expression and general cold, copious perspiration; was relieved soon by *Arsenicum*, when she gave me the following history:

Early in life was a victim of incontrollable sexual impulse; married at seventeen, had three children all of whom perished early, and husband died soon after last child. In about one year married again; no children since. Husband strong and robust. She felt as if she could hang with her arms about his neck continually, with strong sexual impulse. Had been treated by three different physicians, who did her no good apparently. "I did not know any harm came from these impulses."

During my visits, thirty-four in all, I failed to find any organic lesion or other serious functional disturbance than hyperemia of the sexual system, and the ill effects of this condition upon the vitality of the patient.

Patient informed me that no other physician had given her any information about the cause of her paroxysms.

September 10th, of the same year, she died.

Every physician of experience and observation can relate truths of sexual pruriency in children. Children who incline to play with their sexual organs; the male often irritating the glands, penis or prepuce, so much as to cause phimosis or paraphimosis, not infrequently priapism.

Girls are found to insert foreign substances into the urethra and vagina, or titillate the parts gently, causing, by reflexes, ovaritis early in life, developing various morbid conditions of mind and body.

Mrs. ——, a daughter of wealthy parents, who was educated and given lessons in healthful and often arduous labor, which may have been the cause of her being well developed and rugged. She informed me that she had suffered all kinds of local uterine punishment from toxic uterine and nerve medicines, without any beneficial results, rather the opposite.

After marriage all such treatment ceased, and the apparent necessity ceased also. The husband was as strong and robust, and probably as prurient sexually.

Of the children, six in all, one died at the age of six. The three girls, the eldest was very prurient; the second had heart disease and died at nineteen; the youngest was an epileptic, the affection scarcely recognizable as such in infancy but became more marked as she grew older. From early in life to the present she was constantly inclined to titillate or rub the labia, and sometimes produced considerable soreness about the meatus of the urethra. Was apparently idiotic, at times growing wild and vehement, at other times calm, reasonable and loving. At the age of ten years was difficult to restrain, and her conduct caused the mother to fear that some male, without the instincts of right or the fear of criminality, might bring sorrow to their hearts and leave memories which would remain upon the whole family as an apparition of ghastly horror, never to be effaced.

At the age of eleven the child was examined closely, hoping to find some intra-cranial cause for the phenomena, applying the diagnostic electric keyboard and close study of all objective and subjective symptoms.

A hooded clitoris and evidences of long continued irritation of the vulva and vagina were found. The orifice remaining distended, open sufficient to admit the tip of the index finger without difficulty when the thighs were abducted. The mucus thickened and covered by hardened epithelium around the margin of the vaginal orifice, and the os uteri almost visible without the slightest distension.

The hooded clitoris was relieved and the patient placed under especial care of a competent nurse, with full instructions to observe and prevent any attempt on the part of the patient to excite or gratify any sexual desire, and to rigidly maintain a watchfulness and report all observations.

She was maintained in this way about a month, when, by my urgent request and with every reason for which I could summon, a surgeon was induced to remove the ovaries and tubes, and to his surprise found both ovaries in a condition of hyperemia, and one (the right) completely enveloped by a cyst. I endeavoured to induce the surgeon to remove the uterus, but failed in this matter.

On the 17th of October an operation was done for microcephalous, as follows: "A groove on the left of the median line, extending from just back of the hair line, six inches long and three-quarters of an inch wide," was made in the skull.

From this operation the patient recovered without the least untoward symptoms, and the surgeon made the following comments upon the conditions observed. "The bone was intensely hard, and the ronger forceps could not cut it in places. The division between the plates was practically absent. I never worked in

such hard bone." This hardness of bone was doubtless due to long continued hyperemia of the cranial viscera.

After the electrical diagnosis and the relief of the clitoris the convulsions abated for a time, but returned with the former severity.

Since the ovaries were removed and recovery was complete from the cranial operation and the child returned home she has been incorrigible, the mother being unable to restrain her in the least. "The paroxysms seem more frequent and more severe," writes the mother, "and the sexual exhibitions no less, but I have relief from the dreadful fear that the child may become enciente." A recent letter from the mother says, "Berth is some quieter as to fits, but seems more off mentally at times, and has wandering spells, the highest fences being no barrier to her, but is *soon exhausted.*"

Question: Would the removal of the uterus have been justifiable, with hope of relief?

In the present undeveloped state of the public and professional mind upon this subject I have accomplished my object if I have succeeded in arousing sincere thoughts upon this serious and deplorably neglected cause of disease of infants, and the misery and crime of adults which are reflected upon their progeny.

I say reflected upon their progeny, for it is a fact that sexual debauchery is a disease and produces a distinct constitution and character, and is susceptible of cure, and if timely recognized and properly treated much of the greatest curse and disease producing elements known to scientists and moralists could be prevented and thus avoid the sexually prurient constitutions.

As Gallavardin has demonstrated that alcholism is a distinct disease and curable, so is sexual pruriency.

I warn my associates that no mock modesty or traditional conservatism upon this matter, the sexual question, will free them from their rightful responsibility for much of the prostitution, debauchery and insanity due to neglected infants through ignorance or supposed modesty in sexual idiosyncrasies.

When honorable physicians admit their inability to cure sexual pruriency by advising immoral and illegitimate coitus, is it a wonder that so much vice of this order abounds?

A young man of a good family, less than twenty years of age came to me inquiring, "What is the matter with my privates?" Upon examination I found soft chancre, and asked him if he had not been taught not to be guilty of illegitimate sexual cohabitation. He said that his father said to him that he must not bring disgrace upon himself and parents and sisters, or trouble upon helpless or ignorant girls by fooling with servants or other girls, but if he found it necessary to indulge in sexual matters he should go where they sold such indulgences. The young man said that his father was wrong, and wished that he had advised him differently.

I have been called to advise boys fourteen years old who had contracted gonorrhea, and girls at twelve with specific leucorrhea

Is it any wonder that the world is full of sexual immorality, vice and crime?

Dr. J. W. Streeter, of Chicago, is summering in Europe. He will return about the first of August.

Medical Legislation.

REPORT OF COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATION, AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF HOMEOPATHY.

By F. H. ORME, M. D., Atlanta, Ga., Chairman.
ex-president American Institute of Homeopathy.

During the past two years there has been more or less agitation, as usual, in some of the states, at least, of the subject of medical legislation—showing the same diversity of views that has heretofore been observed. While men think at all, they will be likely to show this diversity—and, as the conditions vary in the different states, diverse methods have been proposed for remedying by legislation evils that some think must be overcome independently of legislation—for, in attempting to legislate upon a subject so nearly affecting the right of individual selection, there is danger of running into paternalism, and infringing upon natural personal rights.

At all events, when legislation is to be determined upon at all, each state will of course have to be the judge as to what are its requirements, and no rigid, cast-iron system of laws can be, in the nature of things, adapted to the needs of each of our forty-four states.

The American Institute of Homeopathy years ago determined that the proper way in which to elevate the standard of medical education, and thus furnish competent and trustworthy physicians to the people, was to improve the character and enlarge the term of teaching in the colleges by the action of the profession itself. In this direction the Institute has led, by requiring all colleges represented in its body to give three courses of lectures of not less than six months each, in connection with four years of study—as conditions precedent to graduation. This course supercedes the necessity claimed for the awkward and unrepublican attempts to elevate the standard by legislation—the evidence being abundant that such attempts have generally been abortive.

Many members of the American Medical Association have been endeavoring for several years to bring that society up to the standard of the Institute. In the meantime the National Eclectic Association has acted upon the subject, and now requires the three-term course for all colleges claiming representation therein. It is hoped that the American Medical Association may soon come up to the same plane, in which case nearly all of the graduates in medicine will be from three-term colleges—so that the output of the colleges may readily be accepted by the people. The claim of a necessity for boards to supervise the work of the colleges will have little or no basis—although it may have had some in the past—and the objectionable board system, which has proved so inefficient, distasteful and odious in many ways, will have no reason for being, and these cumbersome and offensive organizations will disappear.

With all of the strenuous efforts of the old school for many years past to secure boards for sectarian purposes there are really but about one-third of the states of the Union that have examining boards. A somewhat larger number have supervising boards, to examine as to the validity of diplomas (the least objectionable form of board), so that t he regula

examining board movement has made little progress, and promises to make less.

There are probably not as many states, in proportion to number, having examining boards now as there were twenty years ago, many states having wearied of their iniquitous workings and abolished them, relying upon the diplomas from the colleges—registered according to law—and the discernment of the people; for the ignoramus generally soon finds his level, and any legislation upon the subject is likely to interfere with those personal rights of which the people are naturally so jealous.

The profession and the people are to be congratulated upon the present outlook. Better physicians will be found in the land, and the boards, with their tendency to engender and perpetuate sectarian strife, are upon the wane, notwithstanding the fact that some of the advocates for boards have, from misconception of facts, endeavored to create the impression that boards are likely to be insisted upon, and consequently that we should have ours.

The position of the Institute is clear upon the point that if boards be insisted upon, that is, inevitable, then each school should have a separate board of its own—a condition not at all desired by the majority of the old school; for, if boards cannot be had that will give a sectarian advantage by intimidating and excluding so-called "irregulars," they are not wanted.

In some of the states attempts have been made to abolish the existing registration laws (the best form of medical law obtainable) with a view to substituting a sectarian board arrangement; but the partisan object has generally been exposed, and failure has been the result of the attempts—either by the defeat of the proposed bills, or the adoption, by amendment, of three boards, much to the chagrin of the originators of the scheme. Thus it is likely to be in other cases, for the day of boards has to a large degree passed.

When boards are advocated it is either with a view to some partisan advantage, or under the idea that they may be a remedy for existing evils, namely, the number of inefficient practitioners, and the fraudulent, mountebank, vagabondizing speculator upon the credulity of the people; but it has not been shown, and probably never will be, that boards are much of a remedy as to these, for the newspapers of states having examining boards show as disgusting an exhibition of quackish and criminal advertisements as do the papers of those states which have simple registration laws, and which some affect to fear may become "dumping grounds" for the disreputable class. Besides, no laws can prevent cupidity, imbecility or degeneration. The young man who has passed a fair examination may at once enter upon a decline of mental energy or moral tone. He may neglect study, and thus retrograde—for a man in the profession must be either progressive or retrogressive—or he may take up with some medical or instrumental speculation, and boards and laws can not prevent this.

The people at last must use discernment, and they are apt to do it; so that the really deficient practitioners will soon be relegated to the rear, and will engage in some other pursuits. Probably one-fourth or more of those who receive medical diplomas disappear from the profession within a few years. In any event, the people would rather be left to themselves in this case than be treated as incapable children having to be "protected"—and they are sufficiently imbued with the ideas of democratic and republican fairness and freedom to resent attempts to put them under a paternalistic form of government. A witness to the correctness of this statement is the fact that with all the occasional clamor for "protection" of the people, through the instrumentality of interested sectarian examining boards, none of it is found to come directly from the people, but all of it is a "hue and cry" raised by sectarian doctors, who have a purpose to accomplish, as may be seen by careful perusal of their proposed bills.

There is something obviously preposterous in conferring power upon a board of men to pass upon the merits of a new-comer—a prospective competitor in a business way—and an antagonist in a certain sense, when difference of sect or jealousy of the applicant's superior qualifications may effect his downfall. Is it accordant with correct principles of legislation to give such power to one set of men—or to subject another to such power in the hands of interested and perhaps prejudiced examiners? Surely the frailty of human nature should be remembered.

So many attempts to secure boards controlling medical licensure by one school have resulted in disaster that it is probable we may hear less of them hereafter; but, if these efforts should still be persisted in, they should be met with opposition based upon the ground of their being contrary to sound principles of government—contrary to the wishes of the people in whose interest it is proposed they shall be made; unnecessary, meddlesome, provocative of ill-feeling, cumbersome and difficult of operation, subjecting the people as well as the profession to inconvenience, injurious and offensive in many ways.

While *boards of medical examiners* are objectionable, as indicated—all but one member of your committee for many years having been opposed to them—*boards of health* are approved, and a board of health for the entire country may be desirable. The question of states rights has interfered; but, if necessary, a constitutional amendment should be adopted in order that the nation may protect itself against invasion by pestilence as it would against invasion by armed forces. As, however, to the Department of Medicine, or Sanitary Bureau that is proposed—a political and probably sectarian machine—of course our concurrence in this can not be expected. Indeed the Institute, at its meeting at Atlantic City, distinctly declared against this measure. Nothing has been unanimously determined upon by the dominant or so-called "regular" school, and opposition has been raised within its own ranks to everything so far proposed.

The old National Board of Health was better than anything that has since been suggested, and should never have had the appropriation necessary for its operation cut off. The question of states rights had something to do with this, but it is probable that the fact that one of its most distinguished and able members (Dr. Verdi) was an Homeopathist, influenced some sectarians in favoring another system, which should place the whole sanitary machinery of the government in the hands of the one school of physicians that is in control in the army and navy. This sort of legislation should be watched with

jealous eye, and when some other plan of sanitary supervision shall be established it should be one that shall be free from sectarian manipulation, and as free as possible from politics.

Associations.

THE HOMEOPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTH DAKOTA.

The Homeopathic Medical Society of South Dakota held its annual session at Huron, S. D., June 12 and 13. The attendance was much larger than last year, and the meeting one of the most enthusiastic ever held in the state.

The officers elected are as follows: President, Dr. O. N. Hoyt, Pierre; vice president, Dr. G. H. Fulford, Sioux Falls; secretary, Dr. Wm. Lowe, Wentworth; treasurer, Dr. J. A. Baker, Mitchell.

The following resolution was unanimously adopted:

Whereas, It is the opinion of the Homeopathic Medical Society of South Dakota that all our citizens are equally entitled to representation in administrative affairs; and whereas, The practitioners and adherents of Homeopathy comprise a respectable factor in this commonwealth; therefore be it

Resolved, That the Homeopathic School of Medicine should be represented on the State Board of Health; and be it

Further Resolved, That this society in annual convention assembled, in Huron, S. D., on the 12th and 13th of June, 1894, especially condemns as unworthy and unjust the action of Governor Sheldon in refusing to recognize the Homeopathic school in the appointments to the State Board made by him during his incumbency as governor of this state, we having reason to believe that he was in said refusal wholly governed by political considerations.

HOMEOPATHIC MEDICAL SOCIETY OF CHICAGO.

The first special meeting of the Homeopathic Medical Society of Chicago, was held at the Grand Pacific Hotel, Friday evening, July 6th. The object of this meeting was the complete organization of the society and the establishment of its rules and by-laws preparatory for the first regular meeting in September.

There were fifty-two members present, notwithstanding the short notice and the disturbed times. The minutes of the first meeting were indorsed, the by-laws were submitted and adopted and a few minor amendments to the constitution were made.

The report of the legislative committee was given by Dr. A. K. Crawford. It was to the effect that the committee was completely organized and had formulated a plan for the advancement and maintenance of Homeopathic medico-political rights. The workings of this committee will be reported regularly to the society.

Upon the motion of Dr. H. P. Skiles a committee of three, to be known as the Statistical Committee, was appointed by the chair for the purpose of tabulating and reporting medical statistics in this city. The committee as named were: Drs. H. P. Skiles, C Gurnee Fellows and C. G. Fuller.

Upon the motion of Dr. T. C. Duncan a Necrological Committee of five was appointed for the sake of keeping an accurate account and reporting all deaths among the Homeopathic physicians of the city. The committee appointed were: Drs. T. C. Duncan, Emma F. Geisse, W. H. Burt, M. B. Blouke and Howard Crutcher.

The society then listened to a paper by Dr. J. S. Mitchell, entitled "The Curability of Cancer." Discussions followed by Drs. Crawford, Burt, Weirick, Grosvenor, Hedges and Craig.

The meeting then adjourned until September.

H. V. Halbert, M. D., Secretary.

Correspondence.

FROM MICHIGAN.

Midland, Mich., July 19, 1894.

Dear Editor Medical Century:

Your valuable journal comes to hand in due time and its pages are always perused with profit and pleasure. Princes may be good and do their work and often do it very well, but the Century is King. It is an all round journal and unquestionably stands second to none.

Today I received a few sample pages of the Standard Dictionary. The different topics have different authors and all taken together as a whole are called the editorial staff. The subject of Medicine is under the care of Dr. Foster, editor of the New York Medical Journal. After discussing anatomy, chemistry, theology and philosophy, literature, music, etc., etc., we come to a topic called "Other Departments;" under this topic we find chess, compound words, Eclectic system of medicine, Egyptian terms, frontier terms, Homeopathic system of medicine, phrenology, poultry, socialism, etc., etc. Now why is it that the Allopathic system of medicine is not placed here as well as the Eclectic and Homeopathic? Or else, why doesn't the Homeopathic system of medicine comes under the subject of medicine? I have just written our Dr. Allen and told him if he accepts the situation as it is he acknowledges he is not a teacher of medicine, and disgraces the Dictionary and himself and insults the Homeopathic practitioners and their patrons throughout the whole world. Is medicine Allopathy? If so, then this other means that Eclectic and Homeopathy are not medicine.

You ought to take up the matter of their laying claim to publishing a work abreast of the times and placing our school outside of medicine. In Pennsylvania Dr. Foster would be called an Allopathic physician and Dr. Allen would be called a Homeopathic physician. Is this dictionary abreast of the times if it does not class the Homeopathic system under the subject of medicine? I say no, emphatically. I am writing this letter to you and you are at liberty to comment upon it if you wish, through the columns of the Century, especially that part of it in sending me a young man to assist me.

I am still very busy and wish I had a good wide-awake young man of pleasing address. If I find the right one I will take him into partnership with me. I am secretary to the board of United States examining surgeons, which requires considerable writing.

With best wishes, I remain, cordially and fraternally yours, G. W. Pringle, M. D.

Medical Century

An International Journal of Homeopathic Medicine and Surgery.

C. E. FISHER, M. D., - Editor,

ASSOCIATE EDITOR:

W. A. DEWEY, M. D., New York.

Chicago, August 1, 1894.

A CHICAGO POSSIBILITY.

There is but one Chicago. No other city in the world could have accomplished the great World's Fair as did Chicago. No other city could have burned down that elegant White City with as little of outraged sentiment as has done Chicago. No other city can get up a strike on such short notice, stand as many big fires, erect as many skyscraping buildings, dig as big canals and grow as rapidly as can Chicago. No other city can furnish an Altgelt, a Hopkins, a Prendergast, or a Carl Brown, as can Chicago. Nor can any other city in this great country point with mingled feelings of pride and mortification to the fact that their exists within her municipality four separate and distinct Homeopathic medical colleges. Only Chicago, the marvel of the closing years of the Nineteenth Century, and of the Medical Century, can boast of these things, and therefore, Homeopathically, as in all things else, there is but one Chicago.

But Chicago is Chicago, and Chicago is a city of greater possibilities in all things than have yet been attained. Medically speaking, she is destined to lead, as she now leads in population and commercial interests. The old school profession has many medical colleges and many hospitals here, and the Eclectics have a full share. And Homeopathy has the Hahnemann Medical College, the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, the National Homeopathic Medical College and Hering Medical College and Hospital. The first named is the oldest of them all and has the largest classes and the largest alumni. The next named has its own valuable property, the largest class of men students, the most evenly constituted faculty, and perhaps the greatest amount of local prestige. The third named has had a hard struggle for its life but seems to be passing through its infant period in fairly good shape, and the outlook is that it has come to remain. The fourth named school has had rather phenomenal success thus far in its history, and its friends seem to believe its sailing will be in smooth waters all the time. Hahnemann College had above two hundred students last year, Chicago Homeopathic had above one hundred and seventy-five, Hering followed, in her second year, with ninety and the National reports forty enrollments, or thereabouts. All told there were above five hundred Homeopathic medical students engaged in the study of their profession in Chicago during the winter of 1893-94, and nearly or quite two hundred men and a few women were engaged in training this large number of young folk in the practice of medicine and Homeopathy. And in these facts lies a great possibility, if Chicago's profession were but great enough and liberal enough and broad enough and self-sacrificing enough to grasp it.

Imagine these two hundred men and women graded in one great medical faculty! There could be a corps of twenty or thirty full or senior professors, as in foreign institutions. Then there could be a graded active faculty for the chief professorial work of the school. Then there could be well nigh a hundred docents or associate professors or lecturers doing the actual drill work of the school, the laboratory work, the exemplifying, the illustrative work in all departments. And there could be congregated under the roofs of one great college of medicine these five hundred students; and this large number of teachers and students would attract half as many more, and then Chicago would be the great Homeopathic medical centre of this great world of ours.

Consolidation, co-operation, unity of action, is the order of the day. There is a great possibility in Chicago for just this sort of thing, and the profession at large will agree with us, we firmly believe, when we say this consolidation ought to take place. It is not the idle dream of a dreamer to believe that it can be brought about if personal grievances, selfish interests, narrow views, are relegated to the background, and a broader liberality, a wider breadth of thought and a greater interest in the common cause be made to obtain.

But will this desideratum ever be accomplished in this great Chicago? For this happy consummation let us all devoutly pray.

A SUCCESSFUL SECTION.

Perhaps the section calling for and receiving the greatest display of ingeniousness of program at the Denver meeting of the American Institute was that of Materia Medica. There is a certain dash attending the work of the sections in Surgery and Gynecology, and the mechanical suggestions pertaining to the department of Obstetrics call for an interest and research on the part of those participating and interested in it that insures its success at nearly or quite all of the meetings of the Institute. But Materia Medica is accounted such a dry subject and

it has so little in it that is attractive to the general practitioner, even though, as a specialty in Homeopathy, it should be the subject of all subjects to interest that functionary, that this section has been unattended with that special interest in recent years that belongs to it. Not so, however, at Denver. The chairman, Dr. Frank Kraft, won praises for himself and the work of his section by providing one of the most attractive schedules ever set before the Institute, and the ingenuity displayed by him in arranging the subject, his beautifully illustrated programs, and the original lectures on the *Kalis* and the *Mercuries* by Prof. T. F. Allen, New York, illustrative of his method of teaching Materia Medica, brought this section to the front as one of the most interesting and instructive of them all.

Dr. Kraft's method is a new departure, and it is a success. As a former teacher of Materia Medica he knew just how to handle this section to make it productive of practical results, and the Institute is to be congratulated that he had charge of it for 1894. He has demonstrated that Materia Medica is not necessarily a dry subject. He has shown how its consideration at society meetings may be made productive of much good. He has set the pace for others to follow, and it may be truly said of the work of this year that it is a model of its kind, and that it will be difficult to improve upon it. Dr. Dewey, the chairman for the Newport meeting, is already at work planning for the program of this section for next year, and he may be expected to at least equal the pace set him by Dr. Kraft and further demonstrate the fact that Materia Medica is not dead in Homeopathy, but that it is a study as interesting and practical as any other if but treated of intelligently.

HALE'S PRACTICE OF MEDICINE.

It is not often that we are called upon to pass upon a new work by an announced Homeopathic author wherein the difficulties presenting themselves, having bearing upon a just review, amass as in connection with this new book. That there is need for a recent text book of Homeopathic practice goes without the saying. That Dr. Hale's long experience as an author, teacher and practitioner should eminently fit him for the production of an acceptable work in this department cannot be gainsaid. And when it was announced that he had such a work as is now before the profession well in hand the announcement was received with no little satisfaction. The work is on the market and is open to review by the journals and for inspection and use by the profession. It is a royal octavo book of over a thousand pages, handsomely printed and substantially bound, presenting all the evidences of great care upon the part of the publishers, Messrs. Gross & Delbridge, who report that the work is already receiving a considerable sale. From the view points of etiology, diagnosis and prognosis it is a book of much value. From the viewpoint of general accessory remedial agencies it has no equal in Homeopathic literature. As a work for the country practitioner who deals with all sorts of diseases in a general way it will be found to possess no little degree of merit. From the standpoint of the Homeopath who believes in following the law of cure on which we base our practice, from the viewpoint of the physician who believes in giving the least amount of medicine consistent with the needs of his case, who relies not upon palliation and experimentative treatment but who faithfully follows his law, as a seaman looks to his compass and chart, the work is sure to be unsatisfactory in very many particulars. To speak truly, it is a very excellent Eclectic volume with some Homeopathic admixture. Whole pages are taken from Osler, Purdy, Dujardin-Beaumetz, and other old school authors, and excerpt after excerpt appear from Allopathic and Eclectic journals, and occasional excerpts from Homeopathic journals are to be found in its pages. In all instances the proper credit is given, so far as we have been able to observe, but it is to be regretted that it has been found necessary to put so very large a share of the book in quotation marks.

In the matter of treatment, even where Homeopathic treatment is attempted, only crude doses are employed. The burden of the song is the tincture, the first or second decimal, the third and higher attenuations being the exception, rather than the rule. Alternation is practiced and recommended in many instances, and palliative remedies are frequently recommended while the curative agent is supposed to be having its effect. Perhaps Dr. Hale is not the proper subject of censure for this, for he has titled the book "The Practice of Medicine" and Homeopathy does not appear in this connection. Strictly speaking, he does not lay claim to its being a "Homeopathic Text Book of Practice." True, he refers to *Similia* as a law of cure in the preface, and the work is published by a Homeopathic publishing house and is offered and sold as a work on Homeopathic practice. It is not such a book as most authors in Homeopathy will accept as a Homeopathic book, nor is it a book such as should be accepted and adopted by Homeopathic colleges as a text book exemplifying, to any considerable extent, the practice of Homeopathic medicine as taught by Hahnemann, Hering, Hughes, T. F. Allen, Farrington, Baehr, Raue, Hempel, Arndt and other recognized Homeopathic authors.

The chief merit of this book, as we see it, and we have tried to study it without prejudice, lies in its volume of resources, as delineated by its author. There can be no doubt but that the practitioner of some years experience will find much in its pages that he can, with safety and discrimination, avail himself of. But to our mind it is a work which is sure to make crude and unscientific prescribers of the younger members of the profession and of medical students should they follow its teachings,

and, therefore, it cannot be welcomed by this journal with that heartiness which we would personally be very glad to extend to it. Bartholow, Osler, Whitaker or Page supplemented by Farrington or Hughes or some other good work on Homeopathic Materia Medica will afford better instruction than Hale's Practice.

It is unfortunate that Dr. Hale did not give us one thing or the other, a work on Homeopathic practice, a work on Eclectic practice, or an old school book out and out.

Editor's Table.

Dr. and Mrs. Wm. Tod Helmuth are summering at Bar Harbor, Maine.

Dr. C. H. McLaughlin, Cleveland, Ohio, has removed to Los Angeles, Cal.

Dr. George D. Arndt has removed from Colton, California, to Mt. Vernon, Ohio.

Dr. J. R. Kippax, Chicago, has returned to his work after a much needed six weeks' rest.

Dr. W. E. Waddell, formerly secretary of Hering Medical College, is located at Decatur, Ill.

Dr. B. K. Wilbur, a graduate of Hahnemann College, Philadelphia, has located at Sitka, Alaska.

Dr. Mary Florence Taft, Chicago, spent her summer rest in the vicinity of Boston, her old home.

Dr. O. S. Runnels, Indianapolis, has had the deserved honor of Master of Arts conferred upon him by Oberlin College.

Dr. Bertha M. Nelson, a graduate of Hering Medical College, Chicago, is now located at 3101 Wentworth avenue, this city.

The New York Homeopathic Medical College will inaugurate the four years' course with the beginning of the coming winter's term.

Dr. David A. Strickler is now professor of Ophthalmology in the Homeopathic Medical Department of the University of Minnesota.

Cloverdale, California, is said, by the *Pacific Coast Journal of Homeopathy* for July, to be a good location for a Homeopathic doctor.

Dr. E. H. Porter, the new secretary of the American Institute of Homeopathy, is summering at Upper Lisle, Broome county, New York.

Dr. J. Alexander, formerly house surgeon at the Homeopathic Hospital, University of Michigan, has located at Los Angeles, California.

The International Hahnemannian Association held the smallest meeting within its history at Niagara Falls on the 26th and 27th of June.

The Century will present a practical and valuable article from the pen of Dr. J. M. Lee, on Hernia, in an early issue. Look out for it.

Dr. Chas. Reading has succeeded to the practice of Dr. Jos. E. Wright, Phoenixville, Pa., Dr. Wright having removed to Morristown, New Jersey.

Our Dr. Monroe Manges has been honored by being appointed to act as one of the Health Inspectors of Buffalo, New York. A good appointment.

Out Dr. A. P. Williamson, dean of the Homeopathic Department of the University of Minnesota, graduated from a Boston Law School this spring.

Dr. A. S. Everett, formerly of Denver, has decided to locate permanently in Chicago and engage in the specialty attending the truss treatment of rupture.

In union there is strength. All who live in Chicago and vicinity should join the Homeopathic Medical Society of Chicago and attend its meetings.

Dr. W. H. Bishop, resident surgeon to Helmuth House, has returned to his duties after a brief vacation. New York is a good place to vacate in hot weather.

Prof. Leavitt is now prepared to furnish special hospital facilities to patients entrusted to his care from without the city. His card appears elsewhere in this issue.

Dr. G. S. Coon, recently of the Cook County Hospital staff has accepted a surgical chair in the Southwestern Homeopathic Medical College and is now a resident of Louisville.

Dr. Clifford Mitchell, Chicago, is spending his vacation in the mountains of western New York. His professional work is being looked after by Dr. Fairbanks, jr., during his absence.

Dr. Edgar Janney, Washington, D. C., will be away from the Capitol City during the month of August. He is a proper subject for the hearty congratulations of his many friends.

Dr. L. A. Phillips and family passed through Chicago late last month on their way home from their summer outing in Colorado and the West. As every one knows, their home is in Boston.

The *Minneapolis Homeopathic Magazine* for July contains as a frontispiece a most excellent portraiture of Dr. J. F. Beaumont, who has recently moved to Chicago. Dr. Beaumont continues on the editorial corps of the magazine.

Dr. and Mrs. E. A. Clarke, Los Angeles, met with no little difficulty in reaching their home after the Denver convention. They were delayed a number of days by strikers and also because of bridge burnings incident to the strike.

Dr. Chas. Adams, of the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College, who is surgeon to the First National Guard of Illinois, has been on camp duty with his regiment at Pullman and vicinity since the commencement of the great strike.

From authoritative sources the Century has it that Dr. N. Schneider's health is somewhat improved and that he will soon take a vacation and rest of a year. His thousands of friends will join us in wishing for him complete restoration.

Dr. Geo. W. Pringle, of Midland, Mich., desires an accomplished young man as an assistant. He has a large and lucrative practice, and thinks it possible to turn over to a competent young physician a practice of from $1,200 to $1,500 per annum.

Dr. Philip Rice, Milwaukee, has taken charge of the medical work in connection with the Rescue Mission. Dr. Rice is a graduate of Hering Medical College, class of 1894, and is succeeding in getting nicely started in practice in Milwaukee.

The Supreme Court of Pennsylvania has recently rendered a decision sustaining the lower court in the opinion that it is lawful to exclude children who

have not been vaccinated from the public schools, when the rules of the school boards so decree.

The *Homeopathic Recorder*, Philadelphia, for July, contains a lengthy reading notice of the forthcoming Homeopathic Text Book of Surgery. Boericke & Tafel will receive subscriptions for the new work from their customers at any of their pharmacies.

The baby college, the Southwestern Homeopathic Medical College, Louisville, is out with its second annual announcement, and a right creditable little document it is. The Louisville people are very much in earnest, and their college will surely be a success.

Dr. Dewey's "Essentials of Homeopathic Materia Medica" is now running through the press in its second edition. This little book has had an unprecedented sale and its first edition was soon exhausted. The second will be somewhat enlarged and improved.

"The Nurses' Dictionary of Medical Terms," by Honnor Morton, Philadelphia, has been issued by W. B. Saunders, of that city. It is a useful little work for nurses and students, containing, besides the dictionary features, much valuable information about medicines, etc.

Boston University School of Medicine held its annual commencement on June 6, at Music Hall. The graduating class numbered fifteen. There were also five graduates in the degree of Bachelor of Medicine, and three as Bachelors of Surgery, two of the latter being women.

Dr. W. J. Hawkes, Chicago, the well-known professor of Materia Medica, is off for an outing across the water. He will visit England, Scotland and France, and perhaps other foreign countries, and will be absent until about the first of October. Bon voyage and safe return!

"From doubt to certainty—from experiment to assured success." This is the opening clause of the *North American Journal's* leader on the Denver meeting and it tells the whole story in a nutshell. For surely the Denver meeting was in almost every particular a grand success.

Advance subscriptions for the Homeopathic Text Book of Surgery, now in course of preparation, may be recorded with the Medical Century or at any of Boericke & Tafel's pharmacies. Already a really considerable number from all parts of the country have been enrolled at this office.

The new hospital and laboratory building of the Chicago Homeopathic Medical College is nearing completion and it is said it will be in good readiness for the approaching college term. The Chicago Homeopathic is to be congratulated upon this valuable addition to its college buildings.

It is announced authoritatively in the *Clinique* that the new hospital building belonging to Hahnemann Medical College will be ready for occupancy in time for the ensuing college term. It is an extensive structure and said to be admirably adapted for the purposes for which it has been built.

The Louisiana medical bill creating an Allopathic and Homeopathic State Board of Examiners has passed both houses of the legislature and has been duly signed by the governor, and is, therefore, the present law of that state. The members of the respective boards have not yet been named.

The office of the *Homeopathic Physician* has been removed to 1231 Locust Street, Philadelphia. It is not stated whether this removal has been influenced by the recent marriage of the accomplished editor, or not. Dr. James was married on May 15th to Mrs. Henrietta A. Potter-Guerrero, at St. Andrews' Church.

Dr. and Mrs. A. B. Norton passed through Chicago on the 21st of last month on their return from their western outing. After the adjournment of the Denver convention they took in the mountain scenery of Colorado and Utah, visiting Salt Lake, and afterwards spent some time visiting with relatives in Minnesota.

Dr. H. C. Allen, dean of Hering Medical College, is booked for a paper on the Summer Diarrheas of Children for the next meeting of the Homeopathic Medical Society of Chicago. There will be other papers also, and every Homeopath in this great city should be present at this and subsequent meetings of the new society.

Dr. F. J. Boutin, of Abilene, Kansas, who attended the meeting of the American Institute of Homeopathy, mentions a correction of some importance in a statement which appeared in the Century of July 1 concerning the use of *Passiflora* in sleeplessness. This correction will be found in the correspondence department of our next issue.

Dr. S. B. Parsons, St. Louis, has been spending the summer months at the Kenosha Sanitarium. This, by the way, is one of the most delightful places on earth at which to put in a summer vacation, and physicians will find it just the spot for their families during the heated term, if the section of country round about Chicago is selected for this purpose.

With an eye ever open to the propagation of the Homeopathic faith, Dr. A. M. Duffield, Huntsville, Alabama, has secured the insertion of a portion of the statistical report of Dr. D. A. Strickler, at Denver, so very favorable to Homeopathy, in the *Huntsville Daily Argus*. This is missionizing work that counts. Would that the South had a thousand Dr. Duffields.

The eighth annual course of lectures and clinics for instruction in orificial surgery, by E. H. Pratt, A. M., M. D., LL. D., of Chicago, will commence Monday morning, September 3d, 1894, at 9 o'clock at the Chicago Homeopathic College. Seats will be reserved, as usual, in the order of application. Address Francis D. Holbrook, M. D., Central Music Hall, Chicago.

Miss R. E. Young, business manager of the Medical Century, is off for a summer outing in Colorado, attracted thither by the splendid reports received from the editorial corps of this journal of the many delights of the Rockies. She will be absent from her post about a month, during which time the business interests of the Century will be accorded the best ability of those left behind.

Dr. Chas. H. Lawson, of Wilmington, Del., a well known and popular Homeopath, died of cerebral paralysis July 6th, at Newport, R. I., whither he had gone for the benefit of climatic change. For several months Dr. Lawson had suffered severely from a succession of carbuncles following an attack of acute rheumatism, and the paralysis which caused his death was directly superinduced by this trouble.

We have in hand for an early issue an excellent article from the pen of Dr. Martin Deschere, New York, on the local treatment, or against the local treatment of

diphtheria, which will afford interesting and instructive reading. Dr. Deschere shows up the objections and falacies of local treatment as only an expert in children's diseases can. We hope to have more of these practical and scientific articles from his pen from time to time.

Delavan, Wisconsin, is a good opening for a live Homeopath. It is a town of twenty-five hundred inhabitants, in a beautiful farming country, and Homeopathy has been introduced sufficiently so that the people know something of it. Dr. M. A. Barndt, who has been located at Delavan for some months, is compelled to leave for reasons connected with the health of an aged member of his family, and will be glad to introduce a successor personally.

Dr. B. G. Clark, of West 122d street, New York, states that by mixing two teaspoonfuls of Platt's Chlorides with each pint of water for the flower vases, the cut flowers placed therein will keep fresh for a long time, and the water will remain sweet and free from bad odor. As all know that during the hot weather the water about a bouquet will become stale and disagreeable in twenty-four hours, this certainly is a very simple and practical way of overcoming that difficulty.

A score or more of our best known general practitioners have been asked to favor this journal with brief practical articles on the treatment, hygienic, dietetic and medicinal, of the summer diarrheas of children. If these requests are generally responded to an interesting special number will be issued. The readers of the MEDICAL CENTURY will have only themselves to blame if the pabulum set before them in these columns is not sufficiently practical in character to suit their taste.

Dr. Sheldon Leavitt, Chicago, is out with an exceedingly readable reprint of his paper before the Indiana Homeopathic Medical Society on Pratt's Method of Vaginal Hysterectomy. It is a conservative criticism of the subject and of Dr. Pratt's work, and will doubtless be warmly received by those members of the profession who tend toward conservatism, even though its observance frequently results in the long continuance of physical and mental suffering and eventual loss of life even.

Dr. G. B. Peck, Providence, writes the CENTURY that he made an error in stating to us that the Acquidnick House, Newport, is an all the year round hotel. It is opened to accommodate the legislature when it meets in Newport, the last Tuesday of May, each, year, and is generally the headquarters of the governor of the state. This being the case, it ought to be good enough for the members of the American Institute of Homeopathy, even though many of them are much better people than the average governor.

The Truth About Homeopathy is the title of the late lamented Dr. Holcombe's brochure just issued by Boericke & Tafel, and to our mind it will be found one of his most effective missionizing works. It is after the nature of a reply to the abortive effort of the Browning pamphlet to annihilate Homeopathy outright, and is a most excellent little work to place in the hands of the intelligent laity. As Dr. Holcombe's very latest literary production it should find a warm place in the hearts of the Homeopathic profession.

Dr. S. F. Shannon, the hard working secretary of the Institute Committee, at Denver, was married to Miss S. Bertha Jacques, at the Central Presbyterian Church, on the evening of June 26th, at half past seven o'clock. Dr. and Mrs. Shannon will be "At Home" at 1449 Emerson street, on Fridays, in September. The best wishes of the MEDICAL CENTURY and his many friends in the profession go out in unusual warmth of congratulation to Dr. Shannon in his new relation. May all the good things of this life be his.

A most remarkable circumstance connected with the recent meeting of the American Institute of Homeopathy at Denver lies in the fact that our colleagues of that beautiful and hospitable city, after entertaining the Institute in the royal fashion peculiar to them, had full twenty-five per centum of the monies raised for this purpose left in their treasury. This speaks well for their liberality and good business management. When the Denver profession sets about to do a thing they generally accomplish their purpose in the very best of style and with remarkable success, as in this instance.

Referring to the raising of subscriptions to the amount of four thousand dollars toward the building of the Hahnemann Monument on the evening of the report of the monument committee at Denver, the *North American Journal of Homeopathy*, usually very accurate, reports that "The seniors led the way and over four thousand dollars were subscribed." There are those who were present on that occasion who think certain of the junior element of the Institute had something to do with this matter. However, it may be just as well to give the seniors the credit—they deserve lots of it.

Subscriptions for the new Homeopathic Text Book of Surgery continue to reach this office at a most satisfactory rate, coming from every portion of the United States. It is doubtful if any book announced in recent years has met with a warmer reception than is being accorded this proposed production of our surgeons. There is the talent in the surgery of Homeopathy for a really magnificent work, and with such splendid men as Drs. Helmuth, Biggar, Schneider, Van Lennep, James, Macdonald, Pratt, Green, Walton and others actively and interestedly engaged in the preparation of the new text book the profession may rest assured that when issued it will be a volume of rare merit.

The new translation and edition of "Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases," being issued by Boericke & Tafel, is being translated by Prof. L. H. Tafel, of the Urbana University, and it will be edited by our Dr. Pemberton Dudley, than whom there is no better man for this work. Dr. Richard Hughes, Brighton, England, will furnish the notes on the work, the whole combining to make an exceedingly helpful edition of this practical volume. It will be bound in half morocco and sold at $8.00 net. Subscriptions are being taken by Boericke & Tafel now, and it is a pleasure to note that the profession is responding liberally to their enterprise in issuing a new edition of Hahnemann's Chronic Diseases.

The *Minneapolis Homeopathic Magazine* for July contains an excellent notice of the forthcoming Homeopathic Text Book of Surgery. The management of the *Magazine* clearly see the need for this book, and, therefore, they highly commend the project and announce themselves ready to receive subscriptions. The concensus of opinion seems to be that there exists a real necessity in Homeopathy for a composite text book on surgery, and from the way subscriptions are being recorded, and from the many

expressions of satisfaction which have been heard in this connection, it would seem that a popular chord has been struck in undertaking to give to Homeopathy a thoroughly modern and representative joint-authorship work on this subject.

It is whispered openly in the Ann Arbor prints and dispatches that Dean Obetz and friends have been doing their utmost to have the Homeopathic department of the University of Michigan abolished as the most expensive, per capita, of all the departments on the campus. If the institution is saved to Homeopathy at all it will be because of the unceasing loyalty of the Michigan profession to the best interests of the school and because of the recent action of the American Institute. If it is lost to us the Senate of Seniors will be largely blamed for not acting with the decision in 1893 that was shown at Denver. A cancer needs the knife, but even cancers may be allowed to grow until the scalpel is absolutely of no avail. We are of those who firmly believe this school will not be allowed to go down, now that the position of the profession is clearly defined.

At the meeting of the Wisconsin State Homeopathic Medical Society held the last of May a committee was created to inaugurate a movement looking toward the founding of a Homeopathic hospital in Milwaukee. This is a most commendable enterprise, and it is to be hoped this committee, which consists of Drs. Carlson, Grob, Sherman, Martin, Southerland, Leland and Bishop, will leave no stone unturned toward the furtherance of the work for which they were appointed. Milwaukee, as every other city of any size in this country, should certainly have a well established Homeopathic hospital. Institutions of this character are of immense value to our cause, and suffering humanity deserves and demands all the assistance we can give her. Let us have hospitals everywhere, and especially let the prosperous and enterprising city of Milwaukee have one of which her profession shall justly feel proud, and that at early date.

The MEDICAL CENTURY's report of the Transactions of the American Institute of Homeopathy contained two errors to which our attention has been called. The one was to the effect that Dr. Wilson Smith's objection to certain clauses in the report of the transportation committee was accepted by the committee and its report made to read accordingly, whereas as a matter of fact the convention, with surprising unanimity, voted to accept the report of the committee as originally presented, Dr. Smith alone voting in the negative. The other error referred to related to Dr. T. P. Wilson's motion pertaining to the proposition of Dr. Hudson to undertake the education of the masses by a series of newspaper articles on Homeopathy. Dr. Wilson's motion was adopted, the CENTURY'S error consisting of the statement that no action was taken upon it. There may be other unimportant errors in the report, since it was largely made up from the newspaper accounts of the convention, but we believe that in the main it is satisfactory and reasonably correct.

The Maryland Homeopathic Free Dispensary and Hospital and the Maryland Homeopathic Dispensary and Free Hospital are said to be one and the same institution, but they are having a legal difficulty in the courts of Baltimore about the appropriation of $1,000 per annum by the city council. It seems that this appropriation has always been made to the former institution and was so made this year, it having been the hospital established for the benefit of the Southern Homeopathic College. Recently there has been a split in the faculty and board of trustees of the college, and those having it in charge at the present writing established the new institution with practically the same name in another locality and are now claiming the city appropriation. This claim is being resisted by the management of the original hospital and the city comptroller and city solicitor have decided that the money belongs to it. There are just a few obstreperous spirits in Baltimore who have been able to keep Homeopathy's interests in that city in a state of perturbation in the last few years, and it is deplorable that this difficulty couldn't be settled without having it aired so thoroughly before the public.

President J. H. McClelland and family have been doing the Yellowstone Park this summer. They are expected in Chicago on their way home the early part of this month.

As the time draws near for the opening of the colleges the reports, so far as can be gathered, all point to unusually large classes, considering the unusually dull times and financial stringency. Homeopathy is prospering the country over, and students are seeking its profession as one of the most desirable of all the opportunities of life. In no better way can we, as practitioners, serve our cause than by encouraging the right kind of young men and women to engage in the study of Homeopathy.

Hering Medical College and Hospital has secured one of the best buildings in the southern part of the city for its purposes, and will move into its new quarters in time for the fall term. The new buildings are located at the corner of Sixty-first street and Oglesby avenue, are admirably adapted to college and hospital purposes, and occupy a splendid clinical field. Englewood, South Chicago, Pullman, Harvey and other suburbs are accessible by rail and electric tramway, and there should be but little difficulty in building up a large and unusually satisfactory clinic in this part of Chicago. The great Chicago University is but two blocks away, and arrangements are pending whereby students may avail themselves of many of the privileges of this institution if they desire. Hering College is to be congratulated upon her good fortune in securing such a desirable location and such splendid college and hospital buildings.

In another item it is mentioned that the MEDICAL CENTURY has asked a number of our general practitioners over the country for brief practical contributions on the subject of the summer diarrheal diseases of children, and that it is the intention to give its readers a special number on this subject if these letters are liberally responded to. Since that item was put in type we have received ten communications on this subject, and others have been promised, so that we are now prepared to state that the issue of this journal bearing date of August 15 will be devoted exclusively to the consideration of the "summer complaints" of children. Several of the contributions already in hand are exceedingly practical, and it is hoped the issue will possess unusual value and interest. It is the aim of the editor of the CENTURY to make the journal more practical, if possible, and to this end he appeals earnestly to the profession to give its readers more in the line of clinical items and suggestions, more of how to cure the sick and relieve suffering, and less of speculative

contributions. It is difficult to draw the line when papers are submitted to us for insertion in our pages, but we have often enough signified just what character of contributions is most desired, and if the readers of the CENTURY do not heed these requests they have but themselves to blame if the journal does not prove to be as practical as it should be. Meat, meat, meat, is what is wanted. The editor will undertake to furnish the spices and deserts, but to contributors we must look for the bread and butter our young men and women need. Be a little more practical and you will all receive the everlasting thanks of the CENTURY corps and of its great mass of readers over the country.

From Dr. Richard Hughes, Brighton, England, it is learned that the committee appointed by the British Homeopathic Congress of 1891 to organize the Fifth Quinquennial International Homeopathic Congress presents the following recommendations:

1. That the Congress shall assemble in London, at such time and during such number of days as may hereafter be determined.

2. That this meeting take the place of the annual British Congress, and that its officers be elected at the Congress of the preceding year; the International Congress being free to elect honorary vice-presidents from those foreign guests and others whom it desires to honor.

3. That the expenses of the meeting be defrayed by a subscription from the Homeopathic practitioners of Great Britain, the approximate amount to be expected from each to be named as the time draws near.

4. That the cost of printing the transactions be met by a subscription from all who desire to possess a copy of the volume.

5. That the Congress shall be open to all qualified to practice medicine in their own country.

6. That all who attend shall present their names and addresses, and a statement of their qualifications, and, if unknown to the officers of the Congress, shall be introduced by some one known to them, or shall bring letters credential from some Homeopathic Society or other recognized representative of the system.

(*a*). That members of the Congress, as above characterized, shall be at liberty to introduce visitors to the meetings at their discretion.

7. That the Committee be authorized to enter into communication with physicians at home and abroad to obtain—

(*a*). A report from each country supplementary to those presented at previous Quinquennial Congresses, recounting everything of interest in connection with Homeopathy which has occurred within its sphere since its last report was presented.

(*b*). Essays upon the various branches of Homeopathic theory and practice, for discussion at the meetings and publication in the Transactions.

8. That all essays must be sent in by January 1, 1896, and shall then be submitted to a Committee of Censors for approval as suitable for their purpose.

9. That the approved essays shall be printed beforehand, and distributed to such members of the Congress as may apply for them, instead of being read at the meetings.

10. That for discussion the essays shall be presented singly or in groups, according to their subject matter, a brief analysis of each being given from the chair.

11. That a member of the Congress (or two, where two classes of opinion exist on the subject, as in the question of the dose), be appointed some time before the meeting to open the debate, ten minutes being allowed for such purpose; and that then the essay, or group of essays, be at once open for discussion, five minutes being the time allotted for each speaker.

12. That the chairman shall have liberty, if he sees that an essay is being debated at such length as to threaten to exclude later subjects of importance, to close its discussion.

13. That the authors of the essays, if present, shall have the right of saying the last word before the subject is dismissed, ten minutes being granted them for this purpose.

14. That the following circular be printed, and sent to all editors of journals, secretaries of societies, and deans of colleges throughout the Homeopathic world, soliciting their interest and co-operation.

INTERNATIONAL HOMEOPATHIC CONGRESS, 1896.

DEAR COLLEAGUE,

At the close of the fourth Quinquennial International Homeopathic Congress, held at Atlantic City, U. S. A., in 1891, it was determined that the next meeting should be held in England. On this decision being reported to the British Homeopathic Congress of the same year, a committee of four of its members was appointed to co-operate with the permanent secretary in organizing the gathering. Its first report, which is herein enclosed, has been accepted at the Congress of 1894, and the Committee (with the addition of the president of the British Homeopathic Society) re-appointed, with instructions to obtain adhesions and contributions.

In pursuit of this object we request your good offices towards interesting your readers in the proposed Congress, by bringing the subject before them, and also towards making it known to the Homeopathists of your city in such way as you may think best. We want promises of papers for discussion, and we want the formation of intentions to be present at the gathering—both to be made good when the time comes.

The exact date and place of meeting, with the office-bearers, etc., will be finally decided at the Congress we shall hold in September, 1895, and information thereof will be duly forwarded to you, and published in the British Homeopathic journals.

Hoping to hear from you ere long, and to find your services enlisted in the cause, we remain,

Very faithfully yours,

R. E. DUDGEON, *Chairman*,
A. CLIFTON,
J. W. HAYWARD,
A. C. POPE,
R. HUGHES, *Secretary*.

All communications to be addressed to the Permanent Secretary of the Congresses, Dr. Hughes, Brighton, England.

The business office of the MEDICAL CENTURY has been removed to 161 Oakwood Boulevard, in order that it may be nearer the editorial offices, No. 4018 Drexel Boulevard. All business communications should be so addressed, all communications for the editor being addressed to his Drexel Boulevard number.